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**Financing of the United Nations Mission
in the Central African Republic and Chad****Financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission in
the Central African Republic and Chad for the period from
1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009****Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions**

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General on financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/63/727). During its consideration of the note, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.
2. By its resolution 1861 (2009), the Security Council extended the mandate of MINURCAT until 15 March 2010; authorized the deployment of a military component of the Mission to follow up the European Union force (EUFOR) in both Chad and the Central African Republic at the end of its mandate; decided that the transfer of authority between EUFOR and the military component of MINURCAT would take place on 15 March 2009; and also decided that MINURCAT should include a maximum of 300 police officers, 25 military liaison officers, 5,200 military personnel and an appropriate number of civilian personnel.
3. In order to provide MINURCAT with the resources needed to support its expansion and, in particular, to facilitate the transfer of authority from EUFOR to the United Nations, the Secretary-General is requesting commitment authority with assessment for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 in the amount of \$140,731,900, inclusive of the amount of \$49,868,400 previously authorized by the Advisory Committee to meet the cost of initial critical logistical and personnel requirements of MINURCAT, and in addition to the amount of \$301,124,200 already appropriated for the maintenance of the Mission for the period in question by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/233 B. In paragraph 4 of his note, the Secretary-General indicates that the commitment authority is requested pursuant to section IV, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 49/233.



4. The Advisory Committee has, in the past, commented extensively on the increasing tendency to resort to commitment authority with assessment, pointing out that routine use of that mechanism represents a departure from good budget practice and discipline (see A/61/567, paras. 6-11). Furthermore, while the Committee understands that the timing of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1861 (2009) rendered the preparation of a full budget difficult, it is concerned about the lack of clear information as to the submission, in the near future, of a fully fledged proposal for revised estimates. The Committee intends to discuss these issues in more detail in its forthcoming general report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations. In the meantime, it once again stresses that commitment authority should be used only as a short-term funding bridge mechanism pending the timely submission of fully detailed and justified budget documentation that would allow the General Assembly to decide on full appropriation for the amounts concerned.

5. The Advisory Committee also reiterates that commitment authority, by its nature, is decided upon on an urgent basis for the start-up of a new mission or the expansion of an existing one (see Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, regulation 4.6) when there is not time for the considered reasoning that goes into preparing a full budget and setting up an organizational structure. The Committee notes that some budgetary details have been provided in the Secretary-General's note, although it is only a request for commitment authority. While the Committee has made a number of observations on the resources requested by the Secretary-General, as well as on other matters, in the paragraphs below, it was not in a position to scrutinize the requirements of the Mission in the absence of a full budget. The Committee's observations should be taken into account in the preparation of the budget submission for MINURCAT for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

6. In paragraph 5 of his note, the Secretary-General indicates that the estimated additional requirements of \$140,731,900 provide for the initial deployment by 30 June 2009 of 4,250 military contingent personnel (\$67,871,200); expansion of existing and construction of new facilities and infrastructure to accommodate military personnel, including acquisition of equipment necessary to equip military camps, and rehabilitation and expansion of existing airfields (\$60,002,100); and deployment of additional air assets (\$12,858,600).

7. In paragraphs 6 and 7 of his note, the Secretary-General also indicates that the adoption of Security Council resolution 1861 (2009) has resulted in the need for immediate augmentation of the Mission's logistical planning, engineering and technical staffing capacity in order to prepare for the deployment of the United Nations military force and to support the significant engineering projects to be implemented in a short span of time. The Advisory Committee notes that the related resource requirements will be accommodated from within the Mission's approved 2008/09 budget and reported to the General Assembly in the context of the performance report for that period.

8. As the Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 8 of his note, the additional requirements of \$67,871,200 under military contingents are attributable to the projected phased deployment by 30 June 2009 of 2,810 troops and to the transfer under MINURCAT authority on 15 March 2009 of 1,440 troops (8 infantry units)

deployed to Chad as part of EUFOR ("rehatting"). A 30 per cent delayed deployment factor has been applied to the computation of the estimated requirements for the additional 2,810 military contingent personnel. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with more detailed information relating to the deployment status of both the rehatted troops and the additional military contingent personnel. **The Committee is not convinced that the budgeted delayed deployment factor can be achieved. Therefore, the Committee recommends that updated information on the Mission's planning assumptions be provided to the General Assembly for its consideration of this question.**

9. In paragraph 9 of his note, the Secretary-General describes how the additional requirements of \$60,002,100 under facilities and infrastructure would be utilized. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, on 13 February 2009, following protracted and intensive consultations with representatives of the Government of Chad, the United Nations and the Government of Chad had concluded a memorandum of understanding on the use of former EUFOR sites and infrastructure. Under the terms of the agreement, the United Nations has sole use of all but two of the former EUFOR sites and infrastructure without charge for the duration of the Mission's mandate. The United Nations will also have temporary exclusive use of the airport parking space in N'Djamena and shared use of the western airport parking space in Abéché until 31 October 2009. With specific reference to the resources required for airport facilities, the Advisory Committee was informed that, since MINURCAT would be using larger aircraft than EUFOR, it would be necessary to extend and rehabilitate the existing runways at the Abéché airport in order to accommodate them. The airport would also need to be upgraded in order to meet the safety requirements established by the International Civil Aviation Organization for the specific aircraft in question.

10. The Advisory Committee regrets the fact that, despite the provisions of paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1861 (2009), the United Nations will not have full use of all former EUFOR facilities and infrastructure and that, in consequence, additional resources will be required to construct new camps. The Committee notes that some of the above-mentioned construction and engineering projects appear to be longer-term endeavours. The Committee recalls that the commitment authority mechanism is intended to allow the Secretary-General to enter into commitments and to provide short-term funding for urgent requirements. The Committee trusts that the budget submission for the Mission for 2009/10 will provide a detailed breakdown of projected expenditures under this item and that the performance report for the current period will account adequately for the expenses incurred thus far.

11. As the Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 10 of his note, the additional requirements of \$12,858,600 for air transportation take into account MINURCAT air assets, comprising 6 helicopters and 6 fixed-wing aircraft, and provide for the deployment of 16 additional helicopters (5 commercially contracted medium cargo/passenger helicopters and 11 military-type helicopters contracted with troop-contributing countries), as well as one small and one medium fixed-wing aircraft to provide additional capacity for the movement of personnel and transportation of cargo in an expanded area of operation.

12. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the configuration of the Mission's air fleet had been reviewed taking into account the projected phased

deployment of troops until 30 June 2009, and that the envisaged deployment of 16 additional helicopters would provide the Mission with capacity commensurate with its new mandate. In particular, by 15 March 2009 the 1,440 rehatted troops would need daily aviation support in seven main locations. Uninterrupted aviation support would also be required in respect of *Détachement intégré de sécurité* operations in nine locations. The Committee was also informed that, during the rainy season (June to October), aircraft were the only viable mode of transport in eastern Chad. **The Committee encourages the Secretary-General to explore opportunities for savings in the area of air transportation through, inter alia, the sharing of air assets with other United Nations operations in the region.**

13. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 11 of the Secretary-General's note. **Bearing in mind its observations above, in particular those in paragraph 8, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the expansion of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 in the amount of \$140,731,900, inclusive of the amount of \$49,868,400 previously authorized by the Committee, and in addition to the amount of \$301,124,200 already appropriated for the maintenance of MINURCAT for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 under the terms of General Assembly resolution 62/233 B. The Committee also recommends that the Assembly approve assessment of the amount of \$140,731,900 for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, in addition to the amount of \$301,124,200 already assessed for the maintenance of the Mission for the same period under the terms of the aforementioned resolution. The Advisory Committee stresses, however, that its recommendation in no way prejudices the position that the Committee may take on requests for posts and other resources for MINURCAT.**



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Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction, general observations and recommendations

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations" (A/63/605). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 61/263, emphasized the need for a comprehensive safety and security policy framework at the United Nations that provides the basis for threat and risk assessment, cooperation with host countries, cost-sharing arrangements and operations of the Department of Safety and Security, and requested the Secretary-General to present such a framework to it at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session. The Secretary-General indicated in his report that, following the attack on the United Nations offices in Algiers on 11 December 2007, he had requested the Department of Safety and Security to



conduct a review of its policies and procedures. He also appointed an Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide to evaluate the strategic issues vital to the delivery and enhancement of the security of United Nations personnel and premises and the changing threats and risks faced by it. The Secretary-General indicated that as the outcome of the review and the findings of the Panel would have an impact on the safety and security policy framework at the United Nations, it was deemed appropriate to delay the report requested in resolution 61/263 in order to present a comprehensive security approach for consideration by Member States.

3. The Independent Panel presented its report to the Secretary-General on 9 June 2008. The Secretary-General indicated that one of the Panel's recommendations in connection with the United Nations security management system was the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security conduct a review of the organization of the Department for the purpose of better defining roles and responsibilities, establishing clear lines of accountability and identifying work methods and organizational structure in the field. The Panel also expressed the view that the Department of Safety and Security would require additional human and financial resources, however their level and allocation should be determined following the management review (A/63/605, para. 4). During its consideration of the report, the Committee was informed that the management review would be completed in May 2009 and the results submitted to the General Assembly subsequently. Following the Committee's hearings, the Controller informed the Advisory Committee, in his letter dated 11 March 2009 (see annex), that the management review was likely to have a substantial effect on the Department's organizational structure, its mode of operation and the level and composition of the resource requirements. The Controller indicated in his letter that until the outcome of the management review on the Department of Safety and Security had been assessed, any proposals to the Assembly in connection with the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Department would have limited value. The Secretariat intends, therefore, to submit an interim proposed budget for the Department in a short form. According to the Controller, the full budget estimates for the Department for the biennium 2010-2011 will be submitted for consideration by the Advisory Committee at its fall 2009 session.

4. The Secretary-General indicated in his report that the issues in resolution 61/263 that would be included in his next report, as they may be affected by the management review, were: (a) the review of safety programmes; (b) host-country agreements; (c) gender and geographical balance; (d) the proposed conversion of temporary posts to established posts within the Department; and (e) the survey of security costs undertaken by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for all participating United Nations security management organizations (A/63/605, para. 5). According to the Secretary-General, his report therefore covers only those elements of security that require immediate consideration by Member States and that are not likely to be affected by the outcome of the management review.

5. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the question of strengthening security arrangements for the United Nations should be dealt with in an integrated manner. In this connection, the Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/263, emphasized the need for a comprehensive safety and security policy framework at the United Nations. The Committee**

regrets that the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/605) did not respond to the Assembly's request in that many security-related issues still remain to be analysed and brought to the attention of the Assembly (see para. 4 above). In this connection, the Committee draws attention to the Independent Panel's recommendation that the need for additional human and financial resources for the Department of Safety and Security should be determined following the management review (see paras. 3 and 4 above). Accordingly, the Committee recommends that a comprehensive report on a safety and security policy framework of the United Nations be submitted to the Assembly early in the main part of the sixty-fourth session to permit consideration of the report in conjunction with the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. The comprehensive report should also take into account the outcome of the above-mentioned management review. The Committee also considers that any significant change to the established organizational structure of the Department of Safety and Security should be proposed in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2010-2011.

6. With regard to the elements of security proposals that, in the view of the Secretary-General, require immediate consideration by Member States, the Advisory Committee points out that the report of the Secretary-General does not indicate the degree of urgency of such elements or their relative priority.

7. The Advisory Committee points out that much time has passed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 61/263 (April 2007), the requested review of Department of Safety and Security policies and procedures (December 2007) and the submission by the Independent Panel of its report (June 2008). Given the importance of this issue, the Committee regrets that the report of the Secretary-General, dated 12 December 2008, was submitted at the very end of the main part of the sixty-third session of the Assembly. The report reflects the unrealistic assumption that the decision-making process on the report would be completed within a very short time frame and that the projects would begin as early as 1 January 2009 (see A/63/603, para. 52). The Committee points out, in this connection, that the timelines for implementation of various security-related projects will have to be updated to reflect any new implementation period approved by the Assembly. Accordingly, the related cost estimates indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, which are based on the 12-month period from 1 January to 31 December 2009 and reflect the initial 2008-2009 rates, will also have to be revised to reflect the updated timelines and the revised 2008-2009 rates. The Committee is therefore of the view that the estimates contained in the present report should be considered indicative, as they are subject to change.

8. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 December 2008, a total of 89 security-related posts remained vacant, including in the Department of Safety and Security (25 posts) and in jointly financed security functions (64 posts). The Committee is of the view that, until such time as existing vacancies in security-related posts are filled, a more prudent approach should be taken to establishing new posts. Accordingly, the Committee has recommended that the Department of Safety and Security be provided in one case with general temporary assistance funds for the remainder of the biennium 2008-2009 rather than new posts (see para. 18 below).

9. Part one of the report of the Secretary-General contains information on and proposals in respect of various security-related issues that fall under the United Nations regular budget, such as: (a) executive protection; (b) the protection of former Secretaries-General and other senior officials; (c) the standardized access control system and related maintenance and support requirements; and (d) additional security requirements in specific locations, including for Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) and United Nations information centres. Part two of the report deals with jointly financed security requirements for United Nations system activities in the field and contains proposals in respect of aviation risk management, strengthening of the Division of Regional Operations of the Department of Safety and Security and strengthening of field support services.

II. Security requirements under the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2008-2009, the jointly financed security budget of the United Nations Office at Vienna and the budget of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

10. The resource requirements related to the proposals that fall under the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2008-2009, the jointly financed security budget of the United Nations Office at Vienna and the budget of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, as submitted under part one of the report of the Secretary-General are summarized in the following table:

Requirements related to:	Paragraph references ^a	Total, 2008-2009 (thousands of United States dollars)	Posts	Level	Title
Executive protection	6-10	2 411.5	26	Security Service	Close Protection Officer
Protection of former Secretaries-General and other senior officials	11-17	No additional resources are currently being sought	—	—	—
PACT I: New York annex project	21-36	1 900.0	—	—	—
PACT II: total estimates, including:	37-50	43 868.3	58	10 P-3, 2 General Service (Other level), 46 local level	
A. Regular budget					
Headquarters		4 000.0	—	—	—
Geneva		10 975.6	2	1 P-3	Information Technology Officer
				1 General Service	Information Technology Assistant

<i>Requirements related to:</i>	<i>Paragraph references^a</i>	<i>Total, 2008-2009 (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Title</i>
Vienna		848.7	2	1 P-3	Information Technology Officer
				1 General Service	Information Technology Assistant
Nairobi		6 132.2	12	1 P-3	Security Officer
				1 P-3	Information Technology Officer
				9 local level	Security Officer
				1 local level	Information Technology Assistant
ECA		6 275.2	11	1 P-3	Security Officer
				1 P-3	Information Technology Officer
				8 local level	Security Officer
				1 local level	Information Technology Assistant
ECLAC		1 708.3	9	1 P-3	Information Technology Officer
				7 local level	Security Officer
				1 local level	Information Technology Assistant
ESCAP		3 887.0	7	1 P-3	Information Technology Officer
				5 local level	Security Officer
				1 local level	Information Technology Assistant
ESCWA		5 686.7	9	1 P-3	Information Technology Officer
				7 local level	Security Officer
				1 local level	Information Technology Assistant
Total regular budget		39 513.7	50		
B. Vienna (on cost-sharing basis)		3 009.1	2	1 P-3	Information Technology Officer
				1 local level	Information Technology Assistant
C. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda		1 345.5	6	1 P-3	Information Technology Officer
				4 local level	Security Officer
				1 local level	Information Technology Assistant
Additional security requirements for:					
ESCWA	55-59	1 548.0	45	local level	Security Officer
UNTSO	60-64	761.6	4	Field Service	Close Protection Officer

Requirements related to:	Paragraph references ^a	Total, 2008-2009 (thousands of United States dollars)	Posts	Level	Title
UNSCO	65-68	443.8	8	3 Field Service 5 local level	Close Protection Officer Driver
United Nations information centres, Department of Public Information	69-73	400.6 (to be absorbed)	—	—	—

^a A/63/605.

A. Executive protection

11. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 7 of the report of the Secretary-General that there are currently 15 officers providing executive protection services. The Secretary-General indicates that when viewed against the current security environment and in the context of similar protection programmes by counterpart law enforcement agencies, this number of officers for close protection of the most senior officials in the United Nations is inconsistent with industry best practices. As indicated in the report, 26 additional posts are proposed for security officers, as the current staffing complement of 15 officers is not sufficient to mitigate the increased security risks to the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly. **The Advisory Committee points out that the strengthening of this function should be considered in close relationship with the review of the functioning of the unified security management system for the United Nations as recommended by the Independent Panel, as well as in the context of the management review. Therefore, at this stage, pending the outcome of the management review as well as the submission by the Secretary-General of a comprehensive report on a safety and security policy framework at the United Nations, the Committee recommends against approval of the additional posts requested for executive protection and related non-post requirements.**

B. Protection of former Secretaries-General and other senior officials

12. Paragraphs 11 to 17 of the report deal with issues related to the protection of former Secretaries-General and other former senior United Nations officials. According to the Secretary-General, no close protection services had been provided to former Secretaries-General until early 2007. After that date, specific threat and risk assessments necessitated the provision of such protection. The Secretary-General proposes that the General Assembly authorize the Department of Safety and Security to provide protection to former senior officials, if warranted by threat and risk assessments and only if the host-country authorities are unable to provide such services. As indicated in the report, the duration of such post-service protection would normally be limited to five years from the date of leaving office. The Advisory Committee notes that no additional resources are currently being sought in this regard. The Secretary-General proposes that the resource implications of those

services be revisited and considered as necessary in the context of future budget proposals. **The Committee is of the view that there are a number of important legal, policy and financial elements related to the proposal to extend security coverage to former senior United Nations officials that need to be clarified before the General Assembly can take a decision on this proposal. Therefore, the Committee recommends that no action be taken on the proposal at this stage.**

C. Standardized access control project

13. Requirements related to the standardized access control project (referred to as PACT) are outlined in paragraphs 18 to 53 of the report. As indicated therein, the implementation of the standardized access control project is being undertaken in two phases. The first phase (PACT I) is intended to meet headquarters minimum operating security standards for perimeter protection and electronic access control. The second phase (PACT II) is designed to provide for compliance with those standards with regard to defined layers of security within the perimeter.

PACT I

14. The Secretary-General proposes that additional resources in the amount of \$1.9 million be provided to increase funding for PACT I for the New York annex. Those resources had been previously approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/263 for the biennium 2006-2007. The Secretary-General indicates in his report, however, that the procurement exercise for the New York annex had been completed on time, but that protracted negotiations with the selected vendor had continued beyond the 31 December 2007 deadline, thus precluding the use of the authorized funds. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretariat will draw lessons, as appropriate, from this experience.** The Committee notes that, upon the completion of PACT I, the duty stations will achieve compliance with headquarters minimum operating security standards perimeter physical security through the use of vehicle barriers, electronic access cards, closed-circuit television systems, alarms, intrusion detection systems and integrated central monitoring of access control systems. **The Committee has no objection to the proposed additional funding of \$1.9 million for PACT I.**

PACT II

15. As regards the proposed requirements of \$43,868,300 for PACT II, the Advisory Committee notes that those funds would provide for 58 new posts for the project for 2009 (including 2 posts for the United Nations Office at Vienna under the jointly financed security budget and 6 posts for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda) and non-post resources of \$41,090,900 (including \$2,861,800 for the United Nations Office at Vienna under the jointly financed security budget and \$1,060,600 for the Tribunal). The Committee notes that PACT II funding for ESCWA includes the first phase of the standardized access control project. According to the Secretary-General, elements from PACT II will be fully integrated with PACT I through the use of the standardized security operating system. PACT II will achieve compliance with access control requirements through protection beyond the perimeter layer by incorporating multiple internal layers of protection. This would include doors, windows, roofs, conference and meeting rooms, critical

infrastructure rooms, elevator cars, lobby controls, archival and storage areas and parking garages. In addition, a wide area network will be designed and installed by the United Nations PACT team in cooperation with the Information Technology Services Division at Headquarters to enable the transfer of video images and access authorizations between duty stations.

16. As indicated by the Secretary-General in his report, the proposed additional 58 posts are required to support the operation of the standardized access control systems. Each duty station will require the relevant information technology staff to manage and maintain the technology infrastructure installed under the PACT projects. As most of the systems under PACT I will be in place by January 2009, the Secretary-General proposes the establishment of eight P-3 Information Technology Officer posts, two General Service Information Technology Assistant posts and six Local level Information Technology Assistant posts effective 1 January 2009 for all duty stations except Headquarters. In addition, in some duty stations additional security officers are required to operate the control centres as well as to issue access passes and provide input to the related database operations. Two additional P-3 Security Officer posts (1 each for the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)) are proposed to coordinate the new operations. Forty additional security staff at the Local level are proposed for those purposes for the United Nations Office at Nairobi (9 posts), ECA (8 posts), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (7 posts), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (5 posts), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) (7 posts) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (4 posts).

17. Table 4 of the report provides a breakdown of the estimated total requirements for PACT II of \$43,868,300 by duty station and type of expenditure. The Advisory Committee observes that the largest provision (\$39,763,200) is made for one-time capital requirements for PACT II for the year 2009, including the costs at Vienna to be shared by all Vienna-based organizations (\$2,738,200) and the capital costs budgeted for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (\$875,600). As indicated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 44 of his report, the cost estimates for capital requirements were arrived at following inputs from experts on the local PACT teams, consultants in the fields of security, engineering and architecture and the pricing structure of the current contracts. The Committee notes from table 2 of the report that the total provision of \$39,763,200 for capital requirements includes requirements related to intrusion detection (\$2,654,300), video surveillance (\$5,145,000), access control (\$13,245,400), infrastructure (\$8,653,200) and the security network (\$10,065,300). A provision of \$1,327,700 is also proposed for project management costs. As the Committee points out in paragraph 7 above, the timelines for the implementation of various security-related projects, which originally were set to begin as early as 1 January 2009, will have to be revised to reflect any new implementation period that may be approved by the General Assembly.

18. **In the view of the Advisory Committee, the Secretariat will not be in a position to commence work on the PACT II projects before 1 April 2009, therefore, the proposed resource requirements for PACT II for the 12-month period of 2009, both post and non-post, will have to be revised accordingly. The Committee recommends, therefore, that the Secretary-General submit directly to the General Assembly revised resource requirements for those PACT II**

projects which need to be started in 2009 for operational reasons and in order to ensure a smooth and efficient transition from PACT I. Furthermore, staff costs included in the revised resource requirements for PACT II should be based on general temporary assistance rather than posts. The remaining requirements for PACT II should take into account the Secretary-General's comprehensive report on a safety and security policy framework at the United Nations and should be submitted for consideration by the Assembly in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

19. As indicated in the report, requirements for maintenance and support related to the effective functioning of the standardized access control system would be minimal during the first year after project completion, as general warranty and guarantee coverage is provided under the construction contract for one year after project completion and acceptance. Substantial maintenance requirements would begin in 2010 for the first phase and 2011 for the second phase. Full maintenance resources would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. **The Committee points out that provisions for maintenance of the standardized access control system should be identified separately and included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.**

D. Additional requirements in specific locations

20. The report of the Secretary-General outlines additional security requirements in specific locations, as follows:

(a) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (see A/63/605, paras. 55-59): additional requirements of \$1,548,000 are proposed in connection with 45 additional Local level posts for Security Officers. The posts are proposed to staff several checkpoints around United Nations House 24 hours a day to provide counter-surveillance capacity and to provide close protection for the Executive Secretary of ESCWA. The Advisory Committee was informed that the functions to be assigned to those posts had been carried out since 2006 through ad hoc arrangements using general temporary assistance funds, however the temporary arrangements were no longer sustainable and required a long-term solution. According to the Secretary-General, as a result of a security risk assessment for the Middle East conducted in July 2008, it was determined that there was a possibility of direct attacks against the Organization, collateral threats from possible internal hostilities, residual threats of regional conflicts triggered by or in connection with an internal political crisis and threats from public unrest and disorder. **In view of the specific circumstances in which ESCWA is currently operating, the Committee recommends the establishment of 45 temporary Local level posts. The Committee trusts that security arrangements at ESCWA will be further evaluated and justified in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, which should draw on findings and conclusions of the forthcoming comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on a safety and security policy framework at the United Nations (see para. 5 above);**

(b) United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (see A/63/605, paras. 60-64): additional requirements of \$761,600 are proposed in connection with four additional posts for Field Service Officers (\$352,000), the acquisition of two

armoured vehicles (\$300,000), travel of staff (\$18,700), rental of training equipment and related facilities for the personal protection team (\$22,000) and acquisition of weapons, ammunition, protective wear and visual and night-vision support equipment (\$68,900). The Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 61 of his report that while the UNTSO office premises and residences were considered to be sufficiently secure for the day-to-day operations of the UNTSO Chief of Staff, there were currently no armed security personnel assigned to his personal protection. It was further indicated that prior efforts by the mission to obtain host-country approval for international security officers to carry United Nations-issued weapons had proved fruitless and that UNTSO was again addressing this matter with the host-country authorities on the basis of the current security situation in the area. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the request for four additional Security Officer posts be revisited once the above-mentioned host-country approval has been obtained. Similarly, the Committee recommends against approval of the provision for the acquisition of weapons and ammunition, given the lack of progress in negotiations with the host country on United Nations-issued weapons. The Committee recommends approval of the proposed acquisition of two armoured vehicles;**

(c) Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (see A/63/605, paras. 65-68): estimated requirements of \$443,800 are proposed in connection with eight additional posts that would be required to fully staff the close protection detail (3 Field Service Security Officers and 5 Local level Drivers) in order to complete the personal security coverage of the Special Coordinator and the Deputy Special Coordinator. **The Advisory Committee recommends the establishment of three temporary Field Service posts for Security Officers and five temporary Local level posts for Drivers. The Committee trusts that security arrangements at UNSCO will be further evaluated and justified in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, which should draw on findings and conclusions forthcoming in the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on a safety and security policy framework at the United Nations (see para. 5 above);**

(d) Department of Public Information (see A/63/605, paras. 69-73): additional estimated requirements of \$400,600 that are associated with providing strengthened security for 14 United Nations information centres within the global network of 63 information centres are proposed to be funded from within existing resources under section 27, Public information, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Accordingly, no additional resources are requested. **While the Advisory Committee does not object to the proposal in respect of 2008-2009, it expects that discussions will take place with host Governments to ensure that, in future, required security is provided at no additional cost to the United Nations.**

III. Jointly financed security requirements for United Nations system activities in the field

21. In part two of his report, the Secretary-General deals with jointly financed security requirements for United Nations system activities in the field. This part contains proposals in respect of aviation risk management, strengthening of the

Division of Regional Operations of the Department of Safety and Security and strengthening of field support services.

22. The Advisory Committee observes that the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, at its meeting in Lyon, France (28-30 July 2008), considered the report of the Independent Panel with a view to making recommendations to the High-level Committee on Management and CEB on strengthening the United Nations culture of security and accountability. The High-level Committee on Management then met to consider the recommendations of the Network and formed a steering committee to review those recommendations and the recommendations of the Independent Panel. The outcome of the Steering Committee comprised a number of conclusions and recommendations, which were endorsed by the High-level Committee on Management on 20 October 2008.

23. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (para. 74), CEB subsequently considered the Steering Committee conclusions and recommendations and noted that the development of a strengthened security architecture would require more time and considerable resources. It further proposed that a comprehensive plan for the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Steering Committee be designed and endorsed by CEB at its next session, in 2009. Pending the development of the comprehensive plan, the findings of which will be the subject of a separate report, part two of the report of the Secretary-General contains only those elements of field-related security requirements that, in his view, need immediate consideration by Member States owing to the security situation in certain locations.

24. **The Advisory Committee points out that a piecemeal approach seems to have been used in respect of presenting jointly financed security requirements, as another report will soon be presented that relates to the same issue.** It should be noted, however, that while the report of the Secretary-General indicates the issues that will be included in the management review, no indication is given in the report as to what issues will be included in the above-mentioned comprehensive plan.

25. **In the view of the Advisory Committee, the resources requested in part two are closely linked to the outcome of the management review and the development of the comprehensive plan, and therefore such resource requirements should be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.**

26. The following table summarizes the resource requirements related to the proposals that fall under jointly financed activities, as outlined in part two of the report of the Secretary-General:

<i>Requirements related to</i>	<i>Paragraph references*</i>	<i>Total, 2008-2009 (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Title</i>
Aviation risk management	77-80	514.1	4	1 P-5, 2 P-4 1 General Service	Aviation Risk Officer Aviation Risk Officer Assistant
Strengthening of regional desk capacity of the Division of Regional Operations	82-83	—	4	4 P-3	Security Coordination Officer
Increased deployment of Field Security Officers	84-87	5 743.9	58	1 D-1 4 P-5 7 P-4 17 P-3 19 Local level	Chief Security Adviser Chief Security Adviser Security Adviser Security Adviser Security Assistant
Strengthening of the managerial and operational capacity of the Division of Regional Operations	88-89	459.7	3	1 D-1 1 P-4 1 P-4	Deputy Director Security Coordination Officer Operations Officer
Strengthening of security analytical capacity	90-96	683.2	35	15 P-4, 14 P-3 3 P-4 1 P-2 2 General Service	Security Analyst (field) Security Analyst (Headquarters) Information Officer (Headquarters) Information Assistant (Headquarters)
Security and information operations centres	97-99	4 117.5	25	10 P-4 10 P-4 5 P-4	Operations Officer Security Analyst Chief of Security and Information Operations
Surge capacity	100-104	1 918.8	10	10 P-4	Surge Security Officer
Training and development	105-106	534.7	4	4 P-4	Training Officer

* A/63/605.

Aviation risk management

27. With regard to the proposal concerning aviation risk management, the Advisory Committee notes from the report (A/63/605, para. 77) that, as part of its review of current security arrangements, the Independent Panel expressed its concern with regard to the lack of a single authority that could look, in a holistic manner, at aviation risk management as it concerns the travel of staff. The Panel recommended that a dedicated safety unit be established within the Department of Safety and Security with competent staff and resources to fulfil the safety-related

aspects of its mandate. The Committee further notes that the Inter-Agency Security Management Network recommended that the Department create a capacity that could have the technical expertise to interpret information gained from United Nations, World Food Programme and International Civil Aviation Organization sources, as well as, if necessary, perform independent analysis and provide holistic aviation safety advice to the entire common system. **Taking into account that this capacity, to a certain extent, exists in other entities within the United Nations system of organizations, the Committee is of the view that the proposal needs to be further justified. Pending the submission of such justification, as well as the results of the management review, the Committee recommends against the establishment of the safety unit at this time.**

Strengthening of the capacity of the regional desks

28. Concerning the strengthening of the capacity of the regional desks of the Division of Regional Operations, Department of Safety and Security, the Advisory Committee observes that four P-3 posts from the Field Support Service were temporarily redeployed in 2007 to the Division to reinforce the regional desks and strengthen support to the field. The Secretary-General proposes to regularize the deployment of those posts to the Division on a permanent basis. No additional resources are requested in connection with the proposed redeployment. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed redeployment.**

Increased deployment of field security officers

29. In order to strengthen field security staffing in 15 United Nations operations that are considered vulnerable in view of the current security coverage, the Secretary-General proposes to establish 58 additional posts (1 D-1, 4 P-5, 7 P-4, 17 P-3 and 29 Local level). Table 7 of the report provides information on the proposed level and location of the posts. As indicated in paragraph 85 of the report, the proposal to establish one D-1 and four P-5 posts follows the Lebanon model, where the country Chief Security Adviser has the Chief of the Security and Safety Section of the regional commission and the Deputy Security Adviser reporting to him or her. Both the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office at Vienna already have security and safety section chiefs (P-5 posts) who serve as the Chief Security Adviser. In ECLAC, ECA and ESCAP, the senior security official, the Chief of Security and Safety, is at the P-4 level. **The Advisory Committee questions the replication of the Lebanon model for other United Nations duty stations in view of the fact that the only United Nations duty station with a security phase II threat level is located in Lebanon. Similarly, the Committee does not agree that security chiefs in all duty stations should be of the same rank. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the establishment of the five posts requested (1 D-1 and 4 P-5). Consistent with the Committee's recommendation in paragraph 25 above, it recommends that the remaining requirements for field security officers be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.**

Managerial and operational capacity of the Division of Regional Operations

30. The Secretary-General proposes to strengthen the managerial and operational capacity of the Division of Regional Operations to provide enhanced support to the field. The functions of the three proposed additional posts (1 D-1 and 2 P-4) are

outlined in paragraph 88 of the report. The Advisory Committee observes that one of the arguments for the establishment of a D-1 post for Deputy Director is the frequent travel of the Director, who travelled, for example, 157 days in 2007. **The Committee is of the view that the managerial and operational capacity of the Division could be significantly enhanced if the Director concentrated more on his or her managerial and operational responsibilities at Headquarters and increasingly delegated tasks requiring travel to other staff of the Division. Accordingly, the Committee recommends against the establishment of a D-1 post for Deputy Director of the Division of Regional Operations. Consistent with the Committee's recommendation in paragraph 25 above, it recommends that the requirement for two P-4 posts be considered, following completion of the management review and the comprehensive plan, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.**

Strengthening of security analytical capacity

31. The Advisory Committee notes that the Independent Panel recommended the establishment of security analyst posts at high-risk locations. The Secretary-General proposes an additional 15 posts at the P-4 level and 14 posts at the P-3 level for a number of high-risk locations, including seven in Asia and the Pacific, nine in West Africa, three in East Africa, two in Europe and the Americas and eight in the Middle East. The Independent Panel also recommended that additional analyst posts be established within the Threat and Risk Unit at Headquarters to expand its competency and capacity to assess risks beyond terrorism. The Secretary-General proposes to establish three P-4 posts to enhance regional threat coverage, one P-2 post for information management and two General Service (Other level) posts within the Division of Regional Operations for media monitoring and collation. **The Committee is of the view that the question of strengthening security analytical capacity should be considered in the light of the outcome and conclusions of the management review and the comprehensive plan of the security requirements for the United Nations system operations in the field. The Committee recommends that the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on a safety and security policy framework at the United Nations provide detailed resource requirements for the functions related to security analytical capacity, specific timelines and justification for the establishment of the additional 29 posts.**

Establishment of security and information operation centres

32. The Secretary-General proposes to establish five security and information operation centres in high-risk countries, where the complexity of United Nations operations requires the provision of continuous, precise security advice. Two such country-level centres will be located in Asia and the Pacific, two in East Africa and one in the Middle East. A country-level centre would consist of two analyst posts at the P-4 level, two Operations Officer posts at the P-4 level and a post of Chief of the Security and Information Operation centre at the P-4 level, for a total of 25 posts for five locations. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the need for the centres should be further elaborated by the Secretary-General in the light of the outcome and conclusions of the management review and the comprehensive plan of the security requirements for United Nations system operations in the field. Moreover, the forthcoming comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on a safety and security policy framework at the United Nations and**

his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 should provide further justification for the establishment of the centres and its staffing requirements. Therefore, at this stage, the Committee recommends that no action be taken in respect of the five centres.

Establishment of surge capacity

33. With regard to the proposed establishment of a standing surge capacity within the Department for immediate deployment in case of emergency and the related proposal to establish 10 P-4 posts for Security Officers within the Department of Safety and Security in New York for immediate deployment in case of emergency, the Advisory Committee, consistent with its earlier position that the United Nations security system be primarily focused on the field, with a streamlined central capacity at Headquarters (see A/59/539, para. 45), does not recommend approval of those posts.

Strengthening of the Field Support Service

34. The Advisory Committee notes that pending a thorough review of planning, development and delivery of security training, the Secretary-General proposes to establish four new P-4 posts for security trainers. According to the Secretary-General, this should help fill the gap created by the redeployment in 2007 of four P-3 posts from the Training and Development Section to the regional desks of the Division of Regional Operations. The Advisory Committee recommends against approval of these posts at this time.

IV. Conclusion

35. As indicated in the present report, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the following:

- (a) Additional funding of \$1.9 million for PACT I (see para. 14 above);
- (b) Establishment of 45 temporary posts at ESCWA (see para. 20 (a) above);
- (c) Acquisition of two armoured vehicles at UNTSO (see para. 20 (b) above);
- (d) Establishment of eight temporary posts at UNSCO (see para. 20 (c) above);
- (d) Revised resource requirements for those PACT II projects that need to be started in 2009 in order to ensure a smooth and efficient transition from PACT I (see para. 18 above).

36. The Advisory Committee requests that the cost estimates related to the above recommendations be provided by the Secretary-General directly to the General Assembly.

Annex

Letter dated 11 March 2009 from the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, Controller, addressed to the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

The Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts is currently in the process of finalizing the United Nations proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

I wish to bring to the attention of the Advisory Committee the issues relating to the proposals of the Department of Safety and Security under section 34 of the proposed programme budget. As the Committee may be aware, the Department is currently undergoing a comprehensive management review recommended by the Independent Panel on Safety and Security appointed by the Secretary-General following the attack on the United Nations in Algiers on 11 December 2007. This review is likely to have a substantial effect on the Department's organizational structure, mode of operations and level and composition of the resource requirements. On its part, the Chief Executives Board has undertaken, through the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, a review of the security requirements for the United Nations system operations in the field, in the light of the findings and recommendations of the Independent Panel, and is currently examining the outcome of that review. Both reviews are expected to also have an impact on programme 27, Safety and security, recently adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/247 on the basis of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its session in 2008.

Until the outcome of those two reviews are available and the effects of their recommendations on the Department of Safety and Security are assessed, submission of any proposals to the General Assembly in connection with the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 of the Department of Safety and Security would have limited value.

In the situation, it is the intention of the Secretariat, therefore, to follow a similar procedure as in the case of section 13, International Trade Centre, whereby an interim proposed budget in a short form is submitted at this stage and the full budget estimates submitted for consideration by the Advisory Committee at its fall session. The Secretariat also intends, based on the findings of both reviews, to submit to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-ninth session to be held in June this year, a revised programme 27, Safety and security, for its review and approval.

The Committee may wish to note the above approach and I offer my assurances that these actions are not being taken lightly but this appears to be the most comprehensive approach to ensuring that the work of the Committee is not duplicated unnecessarily and the earlier concerns of the Committee regarding piecemeal submissions on security requirements are addressed.

By copy of this letter I am also bringing this matter to the attention of the Secretary of the Fifth Committee for any action he may consider necessary regarding advice to the Bureau.

Jun Yamazaki



General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 49
Sustainable development

**Letter dated 13 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative
of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to convey to you the attached information entitled "Uzbekistan supports the key role of the United Nations in establishing norms of international law on the just and fair distribution of water resources of transboundary rivers" (see annex).

I would appreciate if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 49.

(Signed) Murad Askarov
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Annex to the letter dated 13 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Uzbekistan supports the key role of the United Nations in establishing norms of international law on the just and fair distribution of water resources of transboundary rivers

The Ministerial Meeting of the Fifth World Water Forum entitled "Water Adaptation Management Strategies for Global Changes including Climate Change/Variability" will be held under the auspices of the United Nations and other international organizations from 20 to 22 March 2009 in Istanbul.

The main aim of the Fifth World Water Forum, "Bridging Divides for Water", is to implement the two following objectives: "Ensuring water for sustainable development" and "Ensuring development mechanisms". More than 100 sessions are planned to be held. The sessions will be dedicated to the following six topics: global change and risks management; advancing human development and the Millennium Development Goals; managing and protecting water resources; governance and management; finance; education, knowledge and capacity development.

The Ministerial Declaration, the final document of the Ministerial Meeting, will be adopted based on the conclusions of the meeting.

In order to achieve success in this monumental undertaking, everyone involved in these problems must coordinate and thoroughly consider the policy of ecology education, aimed at strengthening public understanding of the value of water resources as the basis for life, which should never become the source of problems in international and inter-State relations in the broader sense.

By 2030, 47 per cent of the world's population will face the threat of water shortage. Between 75 million and 250 million people in Africa will face such a situation by 2020 due to the climate change. Shortage of water in desert regions will cause intense population migration. It is expected that this will affect between 240 million and 700 million people. Many countries have already reached the limits of their water resources.¹

For the past half century, water consumption has tripled, and irrigated territories for the same period have doubled. This is mainly connected to demographic growth. An increase in population causes an increase in the demand for agricultural products and consequently brings an increased demand for water. Agriculture is the biggest consumer of water: 70 per cent of the total volume of water utilization. In 2050, demand for water will increase by 70 to 90 per cent if agriculture water utilization systems are not modernized.¹

Circumstances are in fact ripe for cooperation. There are 263 international basins that cross the political boundaries of two or more countries. These basins, in which approximately 40 per cent of the world's population lives, cover nearly one half of the earth's surface area and account for an estimated 60 per cent of global

¹ <http://www.un.org/russian/news/fullstorynews.asp?newsID=11339>.

freshwater flow. A total of 145 nations include territory within international basins, and 21 countries lie entirely within international basins.²

Rational and efficient utilization of water resources in Central Asia have for centuries been very important factors in the regular livelihood and sustainable development of all countries and peoples in the region; and will remain so for the future.

The water basins of the Amudaria and Syrdaria rivers are united and are the unique organisms that ensure the water supply and prosperity of all Central Asian States. While determining approaches to solving the problems related to the utilization of water resources, it is necessary to take into account that, in the modern world, water is a vitally important substance which cannot be substituted and the use of which requires diligence. It is unacceptable to make the water resources of the region tools for influence and geopolitical games.

During the past several years, the problem of rationalizing the utilization of water resources has become most acute owing to plans to construct giant hydroelectric power stations in the upstream waters of the Amudaria and Syrdaria rivers, which are almost the only source of water for the whole of Central Asia.

Any interference in the water resources supply and its ecosystem as a result of the construction of new hydroelectric power stations and water reservoirs could cause a number of ecological and socio-economic problems that will far exceed the short-term benefits from those projects.

According to the data of the World Wildlife Fund, the construction of dams has already forced more than 80 million people of the planet to migrate. The loss of species in freshwater ecosystems is occurring faster than ever.

In this regard, in the event of a change in the current state of the transboundary water resources in the region, more than 50 million people from Central Asian countries will face an even more massive ecological catastrophe. Construction of giant hydroelectric power stations, which affect the historically established regime of water use in the region and influence the balance of water resources, will inevitably result in the further deterioration of problems related to supplying the population and agricultural land of the region with drinking water and irrigation water, respectively. It is obvious that due to the interdependence of the region's economies, the consequences of these steps will affect all States of the region.

In his statements before the General Assembly Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, has repeatedly noted that the Aral Sea crisis has become one of the largest ecological and humanitarian catastrophes in the history of mankind. Many millions of people living in the basin of the Sea have been affected by this crisis.

Indeed, the Aral Sea catastrophe is the result of violent human activity against nature and is visual proof that interference in the ecological balance in the region should not be tolerated.

Initiated by the States of the region, the international conference on the theme "Problems of Aral: impact on the gene pool, flora and fauna, and international

² Meredith A. Giordano and Aaron T. Wolf, "Sharing waters: Post-Rio international transboundary water management", *Natural Resources Forum* Vol. 27: No. 2.

cooperation for mitigating consequences", was held in Tashkent in March 2008. Representatives of more than 90 international organizations, agencies of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the biggest State financial institutions of Japan, Germany, China and the Arab States, and leading research centres participated at the Conference.

The Tashkent Declaration, adopted on the basis of the conclusions of the Conference, calls upon all parties involved to restrain from artificially reducing the volume and mode of the natural watercourse of the transboundary rivers flowing into the Aral Sea, which could result in further deterioration of the ecological situation in the Aral Sea basin, and the degradation of the health and living conditions of millions of people in the region.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has supported the Tashkent Declaration and other documents of the Conference, thus recognizing that comprehensive assistance in implementation of the decisions adopted at the Tashkent Conference is one of the important objectives of all countries of the world.

At the same time, it should be noted that not all of the decisions adopted and supported by the United Nations are implemented in practice.

Regretfully, the necessary level of coordination among countries of Central Asia on approaches to settling this enormous problem, which directly relates to mitigation of the Aral Sea tragedy, does not currently exist.

Under the current political and socio-economic conditions, one of the most reasonable ways to ensure the well-being of the region is to implement principles concerning the protection of the ecosystem and the mutually coordinated management of water resources in Central Asia.

Therefore, the interests of all States, as well as the environmental and ecological validity of projects, should be guaranteed during the entire process of project construction. New hydroelectric power stations should not in any way alter the necessary balance and the regime of utilization of water flow from the transboundary rivers by all States located in the basins of the Amudaria and Syrdaria rivers. These considerations should be imperative and must be thoroughly taken into account when taking decisions on utilization of the water flow of transboundary rivers, especially when considering construction of giant hydroelectric power stations.

Strict observance of international norms of law, which regulate protection and utilization of transboundary watercourses, is of particular significance. The United Nations conventions on these issues, dated 25 February 1991, 17 March 1992 and 21 May 1997, demand that all States "ensure that transboundary waters are used in a reasonable and equitable way, taking into particular account their transboundary character, in the case of activities which cause or are likely to cause transboundary impact".

Agreement among the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan on cooperation in the field of integrated water management and protection (Alma-Ata, 18 February 1992) requires every party to avoid any action on their territory that

could damage the interests of others and cause them harm, as well as bring about a change of agreed water use volumes.

As a whole, the analysis of the legal system of the Central Asian countries shows that the national legislation in every State provides for the priority of international law over national law on any dispute in the field of transboundary rivers waterflow management.

In this context, the position of Uzbekistan — that the projects to construct new giant hydroelectric power stations in the upstream flow of the Syrdaria and Amudaria rivers, which will further deteriorate the condition of the Aral Sea and adjacent areas, should pass a mandatory examination by independent international experts — fully corresponds to the international norms contained in respective United Nations Conventions and the multilateral and bilateral agreements of the Central Asian countries.

Only after the international independent examination, which must answer two questions — how construction of such hydroelectric power stations would affect the ecology in the region and whether the normal flow of the rivers would be unaltered — can the issue of joint construction of new hydroelectric power stations be discussed.

Experts point the attention of the United Nations to the potential threats related to the construction of new hydroelectric power stations in the upstream waters of the Amudaria and Syrdaria rivers due to the high seismicity in the region, which has been increasing in recent years.

International organizations, donors, the United Nations, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank must bear the responsibility of ensuring that proper multilateral cooperation on the rational utilization of water resources in Central Asia is the most important factor in the sustainable development of the region, its stability and prosperity.

Taking into account the significance of providing viable solutions to water problems for the sake of existing and future generations, all concerned parties must strictly implement the universally recognized norms related to the utilization of transboundary rivers as well as multilateral agreements signed by Central Asian countries. These agreements are the base for bilateral and multilateral rules on the rational use of hydroelectric power stations in the basins of the two major rivers, the Syrdaria and Amudaria.

United Nations research papers state that the signing of more than 3,600 agreements and treaties is an achievement in itself, but a closer look at them still reveals significant weaknesses. What is needed are workable monitoring provisions, enforcement mechanisms, and specific water allocation provisions that address variations in water flow and changing needs.³

There is a consensus among United Nations experts that international watercourse agreements need to be more concrete, setting out measures to enforce treaties made and incorporating detailed conflict resolution mechanisms in case disputes erupt. Better cooperation also entails identifying clear yet flexible water allocations and water quality standards, taking into account hydrological events,

³ <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/waterborders.pdf>.

changing basin dynamics and societal values. Finally, international watercourse development may require some compensation mechanisms, such as payments for transfer of water rights.³

The United Nations concept entitled "International Year of Fresh Water 2003" describes water supply as one of the major and fundamental human rights. In November 2002, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights affirmed that access to adequate amounts of clean water for personal and domestic uses was a fundamental human right of all people. In its General Comment No. 15 on the implementation of articles 11 and 12 of the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee noted that "the human right to water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity. It is a prerequisite for the realization of other human rights." While the General Comment is not legally binding on the 146 States that have ratified the International Covenant, it aims to assist and promote the implementation of the Covenant and does carry the weight and influence of "soft law".⁴ The decision elaborates that the adequacy of water should not be interpreted narrowly, by mere reference to the volume of water and technologies. Water should be treated as a social and cultural good, and not primarily as an economic commodity.⁴

The leading role of the United Nations, in terms not only of strengthening understanding on the issues regarding water utilization in the region but also in the broader context of ensuring sustainable development of the Central and South Asian regions and other parts of the world as a whole, should be highlighted.

There is one positive example of reaching a broad consensus on the mechanisms and principles of use of the water resources of the transboundary rivers of Central and South Asia, which was achieved at the international forum held in December 2008 in Paris. Participants at the Paris Conference on Afghanistan, where the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan, Kai Eide, took part, have discussed the issues of sustainable development in Afghanistan and the regions of Central and South Asia as a whole. In the Final Declaration of the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Afghanistan, dated 14 December 2008, the High Representative for European Security and Defence Policy, the European Union Commissioner for External Relations, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of India, Pakistan, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, agreed that better water management was necessary in order to stimulate economic growth and agricultural production and that the issue must be addressed fairly by all States of Central Asia on the basis of existing international agreements and norms of international law.⁵

⁴ <http://www.un.org/events/water/TheRighttoWater.pdf>.

⁵ <http://www.ambafrance-uk.org/Afghanistan-Infomal-ministerial.html>.



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Agenda item 89

General and complete disarmament

**Letter dated 10 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement made on 7 March 2009 by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. D. A. Medvedev, concerning conclusion of an agreement with the United States of America to replace the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 89.

(Signed) Vitaly Churkin



Annex to the letter dated 10 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Conclusion of an agreement with the United States of America to replace the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms

The Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START Treaty) expires on 5 December 2009. It is hard to overestimate the significance of this document in maintaining international peace and stability. The Treaty has played a historic role in ensuring strategic stability and security and in reducing the arsenals of strategic offensive arms. Its implementation has made the world more secure.

Today we are facing an urgent need to move forward on the road to nuclear disarmament. The Russian Federation is fully committed to the goal of freeing the world from this most lethal weapon, in accordance with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Already in 2005 we proposed to the United States of America that a new agreement be concluded to replace the START Treaty. It could be based on all the best elements that have been working effectively in the current Treaty and at the same time reflect the strategic realities of today.

In taking such a decision, we considered, inter alia, the fact that the reduction levels set by the START Treaty were already achieved in 2001. At present the number of strategic delivery vehicles and warheads attached to them is significantly lower. The START Treaty therefore not only no longer limits the nuclear missiles of the Russian Federation and the United States of America but actually allows them to increase the numbers of strategic offensive arms.

Our approach to this agreement is as follows. The future agreement must be legally binding. It is equally important that the document be forward-looking and limit not only warheads but also their strategic delivery vehicles: intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers.

We also consider it necessary to exclude the possibility of deploying strategic offensive arms outside national territories.

I should like to emphasize that the Russian Federation is open to dialogue and is prepared for negotiations with the new United States Administration. I fully share the commitment of the United States President, Mr. Obama, to the noble goal of saving the world from the nuclear threat and I see this as a rewarding area for joint work.

I believe that constructive cooperation in this area will contribute to a general improvement in relations between the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

D. Medvedev

**General Assembly
Security Council**

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General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda items 83 and 109

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Maintenance of international security —
good-neighbourliness, stability and
development in South-Eastern Europe

Implementation of the resolutions of the
United Nations

**Letter dated 14 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

I am writing to you in connection with the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Hellenic Republic to the United Nations, John Mourikis, addressed to you and circulated, at his request, as document A/63/712-S/2009/82, dated 6 February 2009.

The Republic of Macedonia notes with great concern the tone of the letter and inaccurate statements and allegations it contains. In particular, we wish to make clear that the Macedonian side refutes the allegation that "for the last 15 years" the Greek side "has continuously been faced with a conduct on the part of" the Republic of Macedonia "which contravenes the letter and the spirit of the [1995] Interim Accord", and that its "conduct is not in line with the Security Council resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993) and not consistent with the general principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations". My Government notes that these serious allegations appear to be part of a pattern of communications that have been made since 17 November 2008, when the Republic of Macedonia instituted proceedings against the Hellenic Republic in respect of its failure to comply with obligations under article 11(1) of the 1995 Interim Accord. It appears that this most recent communication to you has more to do with a litigation strategy being developed by the Hellenic Republic than the merits of the subject it purports to address.

The Macedonian side would like to take this opportunity to remind you and the Hellenic Republic of its long-standing and sincere commitment to good-neighbourliness and to full respect for the principles reflected in the 1995 Interim Accord. Such commitment has been reflected in a series of actions taken by



the Republic of Macedonia, as guided by the spirit of the above-mentioned principles, taken in good faith with the aim of building confidence and mutual trust. Such actions include a number of significant concessions. For example, in 1992 amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia were adopted, confirming that the Republic of Macedonia has no territorial claims beyond its established borders; these amendments have been consolidated and reaffirmed with the obligations assumed under article 6 of the 1995 Interim Accord. In 1995, pursuant to a new law, the Republic of Macedonia changed its national flag to remove the symbol used before the conclusion of the 1995 Interim Accord.

The Republic of Macedonia continues to participate actively and constructively in the process envisaged in article 5, paragraph 1, of the Interim Accord "with a view to reaching agreement on the difference" between the parties as to the name. The Republic of Macedonia has accepted as a basis for a permanent solution a number of proposals of the Mediator in the process, including the proposals of October 2005 and of March 2008. We regret very much that these important proposals were rejected by the Greek side.

Furthermore, the Hellenic Republic will be aware that the 1995 Interim Accord establishes a process to be followed where one of the parties has concerns about certain acts of the other party. Article 7(3) of the 1995 Interim Accord provides:

"3. If either Party believes one or more symbols constituting part of its historic or cultural patrimony is being used by the other Party, it shall bring such alleged use to the attention of the other Party, and the other Party shall take appropriate corrective action or indicate why it does not consider it necessary to do so."

With regard to the process envisaged by this provision, the Republic of Macedonia notes that it does not recall any occasion on which the Hellenic Republic has invoked the terms of article 7(3) of the 1995 Interim Accord in any communication with the Republic of Macedonia before the present dispute on article 11(1) of the Interim Accord was taken to the International Court of Justice.

The letter of 6 February 2009 raises three examples of "policies and practices" that give rise to concerns on the part of the Hellenic Republic. The Republic of Macedonia strongly rejects each allegation.

The first complaint concerns the decision of the Macedonian Government to name part of the Pan-European Corridor X in honour of Alexander the Great. This occurred in December 2008, after the dispute on article 11 of the 1995 Interim Accord was submitted to the Court. The naming of the main regional transportation artery between the two countries in honour of such an important historical figure from the region is in no way inconsistent with the requirements of the 1995 Interim Accord. The name of this historic personality connects the countries, as well as the whole region, to a shared heritage. In addition, it is a name that is widely used in many other countries around the world. The Republic of Macedonia fails to see how the common use of the name of a historic personality can be considered to be inappropriate or inconsistent with the requirements of the 1995 Interim Accord.

The second complaint concerns the decision to name the main stadium in Skopje after "Philip II, the Macedon". This decision was taken by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, and it was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 164/08, dated 29 December 2008, after the dispute on

article 11 of the Interim Accord was submitted to the Court. The same considerations apply as in relation to the previous point, concerning the name of Alexander the Great. The Macedonian side would welcome an explanation as to how this can amount to a violation of article 7 — or any other provision — of the 1995 Interim Accord.

The third complaint concerns "the use of the 'Sun of Vergina' as a symbol of this country in government-financed television spots broadcast in both domestic and international media". In order to be able to respond to this general and unparticularized allegation, the Macedonian side would be grateful if the Hellenic Republic could provide specific information and precise details in order that we might be put in a position to respond, in accordance with the requirements of article 7(3) of the 1995 Interim Accord. Without such precise information it would not be possible to form a view as to whether "appropriate corrective action" is necessary or not.

I would like to remind you that in January 2008 the Macedonian side, *inter alia*, proposed to the Greek side the establishment of a Joint Education and History Committee that could facilitate and promote understanding on issues of history fully in compliance with the Interim Accord. In spite of the Greek rejection of this proposal, the Republic of Macedonia reiterates the same proposal with the hope that it would now be accepted by the Hellenic Republic.

The Republic of Macedonia also wishes to remind you that, like the Hellenic Republic, it is a State governed by the rule of law and committed to respect fundamental human rights, including the right of freedom of expression as reflected in the European Convention on Human Rights. In this regard, there is a balance to be struck between the requirements of the 1995 Interim Accord, which is fully complied with by the Macedonian side, and the rights of private persons to freely and fully express their own views. The Macedonian side expresses the hope that the Hellenic Republic has not sought to adopt an approach to the 1995 Interim Accord that would undermine the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights on the most important principle of freedom of expression.

I would like to assure you that the Republic of Macedonia will continue to fully uphold the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and that advancement of cooperation and good-neighbourliness will remain among the top priority issues on our foreign policy agenda.

I should be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 83 and 109, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Slobodan **Tasovski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



General Assembly

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Sixty-third session

Agenda item 133

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi

Final disposition of assets of the United Nations Operation in Burundi

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) (A/63/551).
2. The mandate of ONUB was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1545 (2004) and was last extended, until 31 December 2006, by the Council in its resolution 1692 (2006). Upon the completion of the mandate of ONUB, the Council, by its resolution 1719 (2006), established a follow-on special political mission, the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) on 1 January 2007.
3. By its decision 61/554, the General Assembly approved the donation of the assets of ONUB, with a total inventory value of \$2,799,400 and a corresponding residual value of \$1,726,300, to the Government of Burundi.

II. Final disposition of the assets

4. In his report, the report of the Secretary-General provided information on the final disposition of the assets of ONUB, with a total inventory value of \$59,152,442, as at 3 November 2008. The Secretary-General indicated that the process of liquidating the assets of ONUB was guided by the principles and policies contained in United Nations financial regulation 5.14. The assets have been categorized into three groups (see A/63/551, table 1).
5. Group 1 includes assets with an inventory value of \$51,336,469 (86.8 per cent), that have been transferred to BINUB and other missions, as well as to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. Upon enquiry, the Advisory



Committee was informed that the three missions that had received 88 per cent of the total value of assets under group I were BINUB (59.18 per cent), the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (17.77 per cent) and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (11.13 per cent), while the assets (two fuel pumps) transferred to the Logistics Base had an inventory value of \$32,400 (0.06 per cent). Upon request, the Committee was provided with information on the 20 missions that had received assets transferred from ONUB, including the quantity, value and percentage of assets for each receiving mission (see annex).

6. Upon enquiry as to why the transferred assets were not reflected in the proposed budgets of receiving missions, the Advisory Committee was informed that the timing of liquidation and budget preparation activities rendered this difficult. However, transferred assets are reflected in the inventory of a receiving mission, and substantial changes in funding requirements are reflected in the performance reports.

7. **The Advisory Committee recommends that a fuller explanation of the final dispositions of assets be provided in future reports of the Secretary-General, including the residual value of all groups of assets, in order to present a more transparent and precise overview and to allow lessons to be drawn in the process.**

8. Group II includes assets disposed of locally with an inventory value of \$4,735,622 (8 per cent). It consists of assets donated to the Government of Burundi (4.7 per cent), as well as assets sold, on the basis of competitive bidding, to United Nations agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, private companies and individuals (3.3 per cent). The proceeds of the sale, in the amount of \$567,730, were credited to the Special Account for ONUB as miscellaneous income, as reflected in table 2 of the report of the Secretary-General.

9. Group III includes assets with an inventory value of \$3,080,351 (5.2 per cent) that have been written off owing to accidents, damage, obsolescence, normal wear and tear, uneconomical prospects for repair and loss (see A/63/551, para. 10 and table 3).

III. Conclusion

10. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi is contained in paragraph 11 of the report of the Secretary-General. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Assembly take note of the report.**

Annex

Property transferred to other missions

	<i>Number of items</i>	<i>Acquisition value (United States dollars)</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi	9 398	30 380 193	59.18
United Nations Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic	26	98 525	0.19
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	19	281 593	0.55
United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara	19	71 763	0.14
United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	286	535 635	1.04
United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire	98	1 103 924	2.15
African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur	3 672	9 120 825	17.77
United Nations Mission in the Sudan	4	52 323	0.10
United Nations Disengagement Observer Force	4	7 925	0.02
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	957	3 420 791	6.66
United Nations Logistics Base	2	32 400	0.06
United Nations Mission in Liberia	1	60 476	0.12
United Nations Mission in Nepal	10	18 331	0.04
United Nations Mission in the Sudan	1 703	5 714 443	11.13
United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste	32	206 246	0.40
United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia	2	13 950	0.03
United Nations Office for West Africa	2	25 050	0.05
United Nations Political Office for Somalia	2	77 591	0.15
Office for the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	9	57 477	0.11
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization	162	57 008	0.11
Total	16 408	51 336 469	100.00



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Agenda items 118 and 132

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing
of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Information and communications technology security, disaster recovery and business continuity for the United Nations: arrangements for the secondary data centre at Headquarters

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on arrangements for a secondary data centre at Headquarters (A/63/743). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification. The Committee also visited the current primary and secondary data centres in the Secretariat and DC2 Buildings.

2. The report of the Secretary-General was issued pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/262, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at the first part of its resumed sixty-third session on the risk mitigation measures to be taken during the relocation of the primary data centre to the North Lawn (sect. IV, para. 11), as well as to present a new proposal for a secondary data centre, including on cost-sharing arrangements (sect. IV, para. 19).

3. According to the current schedule, the new North Lawn data centre will be ready for occupancy in November 2009, and the data centre in the Secretariat building must be vacated by March 2010 in order to avoid delays in the implementation of the capital master plan project. The Secretary-General proposes to set up the initial information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and to relocate systems from the Secretariat Building to the North Lawn data centre



in phases during the four-month period from 1 November 2009 to 28 February 2010 (see A/63/743, paras. 20 and 21).

4. The Secretary-General indicated that, in order to meet this timetable, a new secondary data centre must be fully operational by the end of October 2009. He further indicated that the timetable did not allow for the construction of a data centre, as originally planned, and that, consequently, a commercial data centre facility must be identified and leased by 1 July 2009 in order to ensure the availability of a fully functional centre, set up with the necessary initial ICT infrastructure, by the end of October 2009. He also stated that this presented a very challenging timetable for the completion of all the associated procurement and negotiation processes, significantly increasing the risk that the deadline for the commissioning of the new secondary data centre would not be able to be met (see A/63/743, paras. 21 and 22).

5. In view of these constraints, the Secretary-General proposes to establish a temporary secondary data centre for the two-and-a-half-year period from 1 July 2009 to 31 December 2011 and to revert to the question of the permanent secondary data centre during the biennium 2012-2013. The key elements of the proposal for a temporary secondary data centre include:

(a) Leasing of a commercial "infrastructure-ready" data centre facility at a total estimated cost of some \$11 million, comprising annual rent of \$4.3 million and an initial set-up charge of \$350,000;

(b) Establishment of a service delivery agreement with the International Computing Centre (ICC) to provide the necessary equipment and services for running the new secondary data centre at a total cost of \$12.7 million, comprising one-time costs of \$994,700 and \$1 million for commissioning equipment and migrating applications, respectively, as well as annual charges of \$5.4 million for operating the data centre;

(c) Decommissioning of the existing secondary data centre in the DC2 Building as from July 2010, with an annual reduction of \$627,800 in the current service delivery agreement with ICC;

(d) Sharing of the costs of the secondary data centre between the regular budget (80 per cent) and peacekeeping budgets (20 per cent) on the basis of the proportion of capacity of the secondary data centre used for peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping operations.

A breakdown of costs by object of expenditure, funding source and financial period is provided in table 2 of the report of the Secretary-General.

6. The Secretary-General is requesting urgent action on the proposal because, as indicated in paragraph 11 of the report, if the primary data centre in the Secretariat Building is not vacated as planned by the end of March 2010, the implementation of the capital master plan project will be delayed, resulting in a cost increase currently estimated at about \$14 million per month owing to several costs associated with swing space leases and the resumption of construction activity after an interruption.

II. Comments and observations

7. The Committee considers that the report does not provide a complete analysis of the costs that are likely to be incurred over the lifespan of the project. In this connection, the Committee would have found it useful if estimates of comparative costs had been provided for: (a) leasing versus acquisition of the ICT equipment; (b) the provision of services in house versus a service delivery agreement with ICC; and (c) temporary leasing of premises versus construction of a permanent secondary data centre. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, were the ICT equipment to be acquired rather than leased, the total cost for data centre equipment and services would amount to \$12.7 million, comprising \$7.1 million for acquisition of the equipment, \$1.6 million for maintenance of the equipment and \$4 million for ICC services. Under this option, the outlay in 2009 due to the initial capital costs for equipment would be \$12.6 million, compared with \$7.2 million in the Secretary-General's proposal. The Committee was further informed that, even under the current proposal, ICC would have the option of buying the ICT equipment using United Nations systems contracts, thereby ensuring that the United Nations did not incur a higher cost under the proposed arrangement. **The Committee recommends that a final decision on whether to lease or purchase be based on an analysis of which option would result in the least cost to the Organization, taking into account the expected lifespan of the relevant ICT equipment.**

8. In addition, the Committee notes that the proposed solution involves an initial relocation from the DC2 site to the temporary data centre for two and a half years followed by a second move from the temporary to the permanent secondary site. It is evident from the Secretary-General's proposal that such relocations are costly: they involve complex, high-risk processes that require considerable preparation and mobilize large numbers of specialized staff over extended periods, during which such staff would not be able to contribute to other strategic projects such as the enterprise resource planning system. **The Committee emphasizes the importance of the conduct of a full analysis of costs and the provision of complete costing information to facilitate its consideration of and decision-making on such proposals, particularly in the light of the potential for duplication and the resource implications.**

9. In its report on ICT (A/63/487 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 83), the Committee requested that the Secretary-General provide information on the costs already incurred in connection with the Long Island City site. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the costs incurred thus far for investigating the different options for the secondary data centre totalled \$178,000, covering expenditures arising from the "due diligence" evaluation of the various sites, as well as the design of and construction cost estimates for the data centre in the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) building in Long Island City. Of that amount, \$20,000 was funded from resources appropriated under section 36, Office of Information and Communications Technology, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and \$158,000 from the capital master plan under the arrangements set out in the letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.5/62/29).

10. The Secretary-General does not provide assurances that the deadline for the commissioning of the new secondary data centre can indeed be met (see para. 4 above and A/63/743, para. 22). The Committee points out that the need for ensuring

full capability for disaster recovery and business continuity at United Nations Headquarters in the context of the capital master plan project has been known for some time. The Secretary-General submitted an initial proposal in October 2007 for the construction of a data centre at the UNFCU building in Long Island City to replace the centre in DC2, including the possibility of establishing a joint operation and sharing costs with other United Nations entities located in New York (A/62/477). However, in September 2008, the Secretariat determined that the Long Island City site was not viable after it had entered into a long-term lease for the proposed data centre (A/63/743, paras. 1-5). Subsequently, the Secretariat pursued a search for alternative sites and determined, in January 2009, that it would not be possible to build a data centre in time for the relocation of the primary data centre. The Secretariat then decided to opt for leasing commercial, "infrastructure-ready" data centre facilities where it could immediately install and operate its own ICT equipment.

11. In the view of the Committee, this sequence of events demonstrates continued deficiencies in the planning and management of the project, which appear to be based on an improvised reaction to situations as they arise rather than being the result of anticipation of potential issues, preparation for a variety of contingencies and consideration of strategic, long-term requirements. Given the significant impact of any delay in the relocation of the primary data centre on the overall cost of the capital master plan, as well as the complexity of the project, which requires long lead times for procurement and commercial telecommunications links, the Committee believes that the Secretariat should have proactively considered a variety of different, scalable options from the outset, in September 2008, when the Long Island City option was abandoned, in order to ensure sufficient time to fully develop cost-effective alternative proposals as well as to implement technically sound and robust solutions. Furthermore, the Committee believes that some of the risks associated with the current DC2 facility (see para. 15 below) could have been mitigated earlier through managerial due diligence and foresight.

12. In this connection, the Committee is not convinced by the Secretariat's argument that the delays are due partially to the fact that it had to re-evaluate its strategy relating to the secondary data centre for Headquarters in the light of the principles set out by the General Assembly for managing disaster recovery and business continuity, such as the consolidation of systems in central data centres and the use of enterprise data centres rather than local data centres (see A/63/743, paras. 16-19). In the Committee's view, the requests of the Assembly endorse and build upon the Secretary-General's own long-term proposals for a more unified approach to global operations and the implementation of enterprise systems to be hosted globally at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, as set out in documents A/62/477 and A/62/510/Rev.1, rather than establishing new parameters for the secondary data centre that have an impact on the strategy.

13. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that a definitive classification of critical and non-critical systems did not yet exist. Such a classification would allow for clear prioritization of the systems to be backed up in the secondary centre. At present, business continuity capability is provided for the systems generally acknowledged to be important, such as e-mail, BlackBerry, the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), treasury and budget systems, the Official

Document System, the Secretary-General's system for managing his contacts and schedule, the iSeek Intranet site and the United Nations website (see also para. 14 and annex below). The Committee recalls that in General Assembly resolution 63/262, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prioritize systems in order to minimize the cost of disaster recovery and business continuity (sect. IV, para. 3). The Committee was informed that the Business Continuity Management Unit of the Office of Central Support Services was responsible for undertaking the classification effort and for reporting on the matter to the Assembly in the context of the Secretary-General's proposals for a unified disaster recovery and business continuity plan, as requested in resolution 63/262 (sect. IV, para. 12). **The Committee notes with regret the absence of such a classification, which, in its view, constitutes a deficiency in the Secretary-General's proposal. The Committee considers that such a classification would be an essential basis for the establishment of a timeline for the migration of systems and would also allow streamlining and optimization of the migration process. The Committee urges the Secretariat to make every effort to conclude this process expeditiously and to provide to the Assembly at the time of its consideration of this question, an inventory of systems classified according to their degree of criticality.**

14. In this connection, the Committee considers that the terminology used to qualify systems, which are referred to critical, major, important or non-critical, merits clarification. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with additional information on the systems that are backed up or running in the DC2 data centre, including their criticality, which is provided in the annex below. The Committee notes that: (a) systems such as Windows, antivirus programs and firewalls are considered critical, as they affect the continued availability of all other ICT systems running in the data centres; (b) systems such as IMIS, e-mail and BlackBerry are considered to be important; and (c) non-critical systems include departmental applications such as the e-commerce system for the United Nations Postal Administration (Department of Management) and the Networked Interactive Content Access System, used for managing digital content, including photographs and video (Department for Public Information). The Committee was informed that, due to capacity limitations in the primary data centre in the Secretariat Building, these non-critical departmental applications are hosted in DC2 only.

15. According to the Secretariat, during the move of the primary site to the North Lawn, demands on DC2 would increase for data backup and running systems. During the move, the DC2 data centre will acquire the role of a primary data centre for the systems that are being relocated. In the view of the Secretariat, this would magnify the risk of failures due to power disruption (DC2 lacks emergency power) or other circumstances, leading to the possible disruption of critical communications systems (e.g. e-mail, BlackBerry) as well as key administrative systems (e.g. IMIS) (see A/63/743, paras. 8 and 9). The Secretariat reiterated to the Committee that neither the power supply nor the cooling systems in DC2 could be upgraded.

III. Recommendations

16. **The Committee considers that the Organization has been put in a difficult position in which it is forced to make a strategic decision on an urgent basis in respect of a proposal for a substantial investment, which the Committee considers to be lacking in analysis, information and overall information on**

financial implications. More importantly, the Committee is not convinced that the proposal put forward is the most cost-effective one possible or the most workable. The Secretary-General himself acknowledges the challenging timetable for the project and the significant risk that the deadline for the commissioning of the data centre will not be able to be met. In this connection, the Committee points out that the General Assembly, in its resolution 63/262, requested the Secretary-General to report on the risk mitigation measures to be taken during the relocation of the primary data centre to the North Lawn (sect. IV, para. 11). The Secretary-General's proposal does not appear to provide the necessary assurance that its implementation would sufficiently mitigate those risks.

17. The Committee has outlined in the present report its serious concerns in respect of the Secretary-General's proposals. However, the Committee recognizes that the secure relocation of the primary data centre from the Secretariat Building to the North Lawn facility is an essential component of the capital master plan and that a reliable secondary data centre is an important factor (see also A/63/736, para. 49). In addition, disruptions in the provision of some ICT services would have an adverse impact on the operations of the entire Organization.

18. Under the circumstances and given the time constraints, the Committee finds itself in a position where it has no prudent alternative but to recommend approval of the Secretary-General's proposal to establish the new secondary data centre. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the total estimate of \$25,737,500 for the project, as well as the Secretariat's strategy of entering into a service delivery agreement with the International Computing Centre. The Committee also recommends that the Assembly approve additional resource requirements of:

(a) \$3,774,100 under section 36, Office of Information and Communications Technology, and \$1,995,200 under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

(b) \$2,384,300, to be included in the proposed budget of the support account for the peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

19. The Committee does not object to the cost-sharing arrangement for the new data centre proposed by the Secretary-General. However, it recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to re-examine the approach for dividing costs between the regular and peacekeeping budgets. Under the current approach, the cost-sharing ratio of peacekeeping to non-peacekeeping activities is established on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the proportion of peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping operations at each site. In the future, as Brindisi becomes an Organization-wide hub centralizing enterprise applications used across the United Nations, it may be timely to consider shifting towards the application of a common cost-sharing arrangement between peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping operations across the Organization.

20. The Committee further recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to review the migration strategy with a view to seeking efficiencies, prioritizing among the critical and non-critical applications to be migrated and optimizing the utilization of existing facilities, and to ensure that the scope of the project is as lean as possible, consistent with the need to preserve the integrity of the Organization's data.

21. The Committee believes that the continuing deficiencies in the planning and management of this project must be remedied. It stresses that the successful implementation of the project will require effective leadership and management, as well as clearly defined roles and responsibilities, rigorous monitoring of progress against performance targets, procedures to ensure that corrective action is taken quickly should problems emerge and mechanisms to hold individuals accountable for their areas of responsibility. The Secretary-General should also be requested to ensure that robust, technically sound solutions are put into place. In this connection, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to utilize the services of an independent expert possessing a high degree of technical experience in the field of migration and relocation of data centres to validate the project implementation plan and provide advice to the implementation team, as required, without disrupting the project schedule, to be funded from within existing resources. The Committee also requests that the necessary measures be taken to ensure the confidentiality of the Organization's data during the relocation of the primary data centre from the Secretariat Building to the North Lawn facility.

Annex

Systems currently running in the DC2 data centre, including their criticality

1. Several systems operated by the Office of Information and Communications Technology are considered critical, as they affect the continued availability of all other information and communications technology systems running in the data centre. Therefore, it has established such systems, listed below, in both the primary data centre in the Secretariat Building and a backup in the DC2 secondary data centre, with capacity for the secondary data centre to take over automatically if there is a failure in the primary data centre:

- Windows Active Deployment System (ADS) (for workstation login)
- Symantec antivirus (for virus protection)
- Firewalls (for security of United Nations information assets from external threats)
- Local area network and Internet access (for all computing resources)
- Shared printing (for accessing shared printers)

2. The following important systems are currently backed up in the DC2 secondary data centre onto "storage systems" that facilitate easy retrieval and ensure that no data are lost:

- Integrated Management Information System
- Galaxy
- Treasury systems (Operations Processing Integrated Control System — investment management, SWIFT, check printing)
- Procurement system (Reality/Procureplus)
- ePAS (performance appraisal system)
- Budget information system
- iSeek (Intranet)
- Parts of the United Nations website (www.un.org)
- Webmail — for the Secretariat and permanent missions
- Official Document System
- E-mail
- Some Lotus Notes applications
- BlackBerry
- Mobile Office (for pandemic business continuity)
- Secretary-General's system for managing his contacts and schedule
- Executive Office of the Secretary-General "Corlog" for tracking/correspondence

- Security video (from security cameras)
- SQL databases (nearly 300 of them for various departments)
- Some finance and budget applications for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- Some applications for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

3. Owing to capacity limitations in the primary data centre, some non-critical departmental systems, such as the e-commerce system for the United Nations Postal Administration and the Networked Interactive Content Access System, a system for managing digital content (pictures, videos, etc.), are running only in the DC2 data centre.



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Agenda item 49
Sustainable development

Letter dated 19 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the information on the initiative of Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on establishment of the free industrial economic zone on the basis of Navoi Airport — the important step towards creation of the transcontinental transit and innovative hub — and on perspectives of Uzbekistan's economic development in 2009-2014 (see annex).

I would appreciate your circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under its agenda item 49.

(Signed) Murad Askarov
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan



Annex to the letter dated 19 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

An initiative by President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan to set up a free industrial economic zone centred on Navoi Airport — an important step in establishing a transcontinental transit and innovation hub — and prospects for the economic development of Uzbekistan during the period 2009 to 2014

By now, virtually every country in the world is confronting the consequences of the global financial crisis to some degree. On the one hand, measures are being taken to cushion its impact on national economies, while on the other, everyone realizes that the existing international economic exchange system is now crumbling, and that the international financial system is in a state of collapse.

The current financial crisis has exposed yet another shortcoming in the international economic system: the industrial and investment growth models or, to be more precise, the financial and speculative growth models imposed by various international and transnational financial organizations involved in speculation on the markets for stocks, bonds and certain other financial instruments, have proved useless.

In that connection, it is very important, for the sake of the stability of the global financial system, to find new economic growth models capable of ensuring the sustainable development of the world's economies, especially those of developing countries, in the context of global financial instability. Economic growth needs to be nurtured and supported so that the international community can emerge relatively painlessly and with minimal losses from the biggest and deepest financial crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The model of sustainable economic growth implemented by Uzbekistan over the last seven years, under which average annual growth of 7-9 per cent has been achieved, was developed by the Government almost exclusively on the basis of domestic resources, without borrowing from abroad, and thus without any increase in external debt. In Uzbekistan, much attention is being focused on the development of new, promising branches of industry, agriculture, services, etc.

The Uzbek model of sustainable economic growth shows that if we approach national economic development responsibly, wisely and with a grasp of underlying trends in international economic development, it is possible to lay a solid foundation not only for cushioning the impact of the international financial crisis on developing countries' economies, but also for creating havens of relative stability and prosperity in the stormy seas of global financial instability.

For all these reasons, the example of the reform and development of the Uzbek economy not only merits attention and study, but could also be applied by other countries whose basic economic, environmental, climatic, historical and other circumstances are similar.

One recent move by the Government of Uzbekistan to increase the competitiveness of the national economy and ensure its competitiveness on the

international market and its stability during the global crisis is the project now under way to establish a free industrial economic zone centred on Navoi Airport. This intermodal logistics centre will serve as a long-term sustainable development resource, not only for the economy of Uzbekistan but for that of the entire Central Asian region.

In a monograph referring to the impact of the international financial and economic crisis, President Karimov stated, in particular:

"Many of the top think tanks and research centres, having analysed material related to the global financial crisis and its possible ramifications, have drawn the following conclusions:

First: the virtually global scope of the financial and banking crisis is now clear, as are the inevitability of recession and an economic slump, the contraction in investment activity, the reduction in demand in international trade, and the possibility of serious social costs in many countries.

Second: the global financial crisis that has erupted has revealed serious gaps in and the need for radical reform of the international financial and banking system, and has confirmed that the necessary oversight of banking activity is lacking. The banks have primarily been serving their own corporate interests and have been engaging in various speculative operations on the credit and securities markets.

Third: the scope, depth and consequences of the financial and economic crisis within each individual country will largely depend on the soundness of its financial and monetary system, the capitalization and liquidity of its national lending institutions and the extent of their reliance on foreign and corporate banking institutions, and also on the volume of its gold and currency reserves, its ability to pay back foreign loans and ultimately the stability, diversity and competitiveness of its economy.

Fourth: the speedy resolution of the international financial crisis and the attenuation of its effects will depend to a large extent on the effectiveness and consistency of measures taken by individual countries and by the international community as a whole.

The Group of Twenty (G-20) summit, held in Washington, D.C., in November 2008, whose participants represent some 85 per cent of total world output, underscored the ever-increasing scale of the global financial crisis.

The discussions at the summit showed that prevention is no longer an option and that we must now find ways out of the international financial crisis; in other words, a line has been crossed and there can be no return to previous positions.

It was also clear from the summit discussions that participants differed in their analyses of the reasons for the crisis, and it is therefore premature to speak of elaborating any kind of common, effective programme to counteract the serious and far-reaching impact of the ongoing crisis.

At the same time, the very fact that such a summit was held and that the problems and the crisis situation were discussed is in itself an encouraging sign.

Today, it is clear that a country's degree of vulnerability to the impact of the global financial crisis depends first and foremost on the stability and soundness of

its financial, economic and banking systems and on the strength of those systems' built-in defence mechanisms.

The reform and modernization model adopted in Uzbekistan, the goal of which is to secure national interests for the long term, has from the beginning implied a rejection of the shock therapy methods and naïve, delusional ideas about market self-regulation that are persistently being imposed on us.

The total assets of Uzbekistan's commercial banks, which now include the reserves formed under the Law Guaranteeing the Protection of Citizens' Bank Deposits, are in excess of 13,360 billion sum, or approximately 2.4 times more than the total deposits made by the public and by enterprises.

It should be recalled that the cumulative external debt of Uzbekistan as at 1 January 2009 amounted to 13.3 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and has been classified according to international norms as 'less than moderate'.

In setting our main economic priorities for 2009, there is no need today, given current conditions, to dwell on the importance of taking into account the impact of the global economic crisis, which, according to authoritative international experts, will continue, and perhaps even deepen, this year and in 2010.

With that in mind, it is obvious that the main priority for Uzbekistan's economic and social development in 2009 will continue to be the implementation of the anti-crisis programme that we have adopted for 2009-2012.

The next most important priority is to continue developing our economic and social infrastructure, which is a crucial factor in modernizing the country and boosting employment."

The President is devoting special attention to that priority, "as it is of the greatest importance to the country.

There are many reasons for this:

First, infrastructure development facilitates the establishment of new businesses and the development of the economy as a whole, and improves access to the country's rich mineral resources;

Secondly, a well-developed and efficient economic infrastructure system, especially roads and railway lines, is crucial to reducing bottlenecks in production, which boosts industrial competitiveness and the general competitiveness of our economy;

Thirdly, the development of the social infrastructure, the provision of clean drinking water and adequate energy supplies and the building of social amenities are aimed at improving the quality of life;

Fourthly, since the infrastructure development sector is a major employer, new jobs can be created, boosting employment, especially among young people, and raising income levels and general well-being.

In order to ensure quick economic and social infrastructure development and thus to promote stable and dynamic economic development, a special programme entitled 'Additional measures for further development of the economic and social

infrastructure in 2009' has been adopted, and the Government has assumed responsibility for the programme."

President Karimov considers that "a key factor in the success of the free industrial economic zone will be the transcontinental intermodal hub operating right next to it, which will be run, starting in January 2009, by the world leader in air cargo shipment, Korean Air".

The establishment of an international intermodal logistics centre will not only provide a transcontinental transport and shipping hub linking South-East Asia and Europe, but will also promote the establishment of new high-tech industry in Navoi province and nearby regions. This is one of the most promising projects and will have a positive impact on economic development not only in Uzbekistan but in the entire Central Asian region.

On 5 March 2009 a conference entitled "The free industrial economic zone in the city of Navoi — new investment prospects in Uzbekistan for Korean partners" took place in Seoul. More than 1,200 business people from the Republic of Korea participated.

Situated at a very important highway, railway and air route junction, Navoi Airport links the countries of South-East Asia with those of Central and South Asia, the Middle East and even Europe. In the very near future Navoi Airport will have air links to such large European and Asian cities as Singapore, Delhi, Bangkok, Frankfurt and Milan.

The free industrial economic zone will be governed by a special fiscal, customs and currency regime, with simplified procedures for import and export and for non-residents to obtain work permits; no taxes will be payable on land, goods, profits or improvements on buildings and social infrastructure; and the standard tax payment will be waived.

The success of the conference is attested by the fact that participants signed 35 investment projects and agreements worth more than \$500 million in total.

During the conference there were thematic round tables on the priority areas of cooperation in sectors such as the petroleum, gas, petrochemical, chemical, textile and electro-technical industries, as well as information technology and telecommunications, the production of construction materials, the pharmaceutical and food industries, the production and processing of food products, and tourism, for all of which specific investment projects were presented.

The scope of economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea has been growing constantly. In 2008 alone, more than 80 Korean business delegations visited Uzbekistan. The establishment of the free industrial economic zone in the city of Navoi is generating increased interest in Uzbekistan, and analysts project that this will lead to increased business activity, not only among Korean companies but also among those from other countries.

In speaking of the development of a modern economic and social infrastructure, it is important to note that Uzbekistan plans to implement 327 investment projects from 2009 to 2014, with a total value of more than \$40 billion. These projects form part of a modernization programme involving the technical and technological re-equipping of enterprises in the basic branches of the economy. The programme has been endorsed by decision of President Karimov.

The programme includes 181 projects in the productive sector of the economy that amount to \$22.97 billion and are under way or ready to go. Out of this amount \$15.4 billion is earmarked for new construction, \$6.4 billion for the modernization and reconstruction of existing enterprises, and about \$1.2 billion for technical and technological re-equipment.

Financing for the projects will come from foreign investments and loans amounting to about \$15.1 billion, resources of the enterprises themselves in the amount of \$5.8 billion, loans from the Fund for the Reconstruction and Development of Uzbekistan amounting to \$1.5 billion, and loans from domestic commercial banks in the amount of \$570 million.

The programme includes 77 other projects that are being worked on with an estimated value of \$12.2 billion, including new construction projects amounting to \$9.5 billion and modernization and technical re-equipment projects worth \$2.7 billion.

The programme also foresees 69 promising investment projects, estimated at \$7.3 billion, in the fuel and power sector, the chemical and metallurgical industries, light industry, the production of construction materials and machine building.

According to Government projections, these projects, thanks to their use of innovative technology and their ability to meet the demand for new types of goods on the world market, will lead to an increase in production amounting to \$10.4 billion per year and a \$6.5 billion rise in exports per year.

Last year investment from all sources in the Uzbek economy rose by 28.3 per cent to \$6.4 billion, while foreign investment rose 46 per cent to \$1.7 billion. Direct investments made up 74 per cent of the overall foreign investment.



**General Assembly
Security Council**

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 15
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

**Identical letters dated 19 March 2009 from the Permanent
Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 1 to 14 March 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nawaf Salam
Permanent Representative



Annex to the identical letters dated 19 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 1 to 14 March 2009, inclusive

Air violations

On 5 March 2009:

- Between 1000 and 1140 hours, six Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. Four entered over the occupied Shab'a Farms and two over Aytarun. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving over the aforementioned Farms;
- Between 0700 and 1559 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and flying north. It circled over the regions of the South and left over Naqurah.

On 6 March 2009:

- Between 0007 and 0035 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Byblos and flying east as far as Baalbek. They circled over the regions of Baalbek, Byblos and Shikka before leaving over Aytarun;
- Between 1500 and 1535 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa and flying north as far as Shikka. They circled over Shikka, Byblos and the Bekaa before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b;
- At 0340 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa and flying north as far as Baalbek. It circled over the regions of Baalbek, the South and the Western Bekaa before leaving at 0247 hours on 7 March 2009 over Kafr Killa.

On 7 March 2009, between 0215 and 0645 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over the regions of the South and the Western Bekaa before leaving over Kafr Killa.

On 8 March 2009:

- Between 1100 and 1415 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and flying north. It circled over the South before leaving over Naqurah;
- Between 1940 and 2000 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, circling at high altitude over the Ra's al-Naqurah region.

On 9 March 2009, between 1150 and 1415 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and flying north. It circled over the South and the Western Bekaa before leaving over Rumaysh.

On 11 March 2009, between 0700 and 2120 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and flying towards Juniyah. It circled over the South and the Bekaa before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 12 March 2009:

- Between 0535 and 2050 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and flying north. It circled over the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b;
- Between 1000 and 1100 hours, four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aytarun and flying north. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b;
- Between 1152 and 1210 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving over Kafr Killa.

Sea violations

On 1 March 2009:

- At 2025 hours, the Israeli enemy, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, directed a searchlight for five seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters some 50 metres north of buoy No. 1;
- At 2258 hours, the Israeli enemy, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, directed a searchlight for five seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters.

On 2 March 2009, the Israeli enemy, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, directed a searchlight as follows:

- At 1950 hours, for five seconds, some 200 metres inside Lebanese territorial waters;
- At 2000 hours, for four seconds, some 100 metres inside Lebanese territorial waters between buoys Nos. 3 and 4.

On 6 March 2009:

- The Israeli enemy, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters as follows:
 - At 0307 hours, for seven seconds, towards the north of the line of buoys some 500 metres inside Lebanese territorial waters;
 - At 0428 hours, for seven seconds, north of buoy No. 4 in the line of buoys, some 500 metres inside Lebanese territorial waters;
 - At 1810 hours, an Israeli enemy patrol boat was observed inside Lebanese territorial waters, four miles north of the line of buoys, nine miles west of Bayyadah. It left at 1830 hours.

On 8 March 2009:

- At 2314 hours, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight for five seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters around buoy No. 6 and in the direction of the Lebanese General Security position in Ra's al-Naqurah;

- At 2058 hours, the Israeli enemy, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, directed a searchlight for five seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters some 400 metres to the north of buoys Nos. 2 and 3. It repeated the exercise for 10 seconds at 2114 hours, targeting the same area.

On 9 March 2009, at 2117 hours, the Israeli enemy, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, directed a searchlight for five seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters some 400 metres to the north of buoys Nos. 1 and 2.

On 10 March 2009, at 2020 hours, the Israeli enemy, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, directed a searchlight for 12 seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters between the shore and buoy No. 1.

On 12 March 2009:

- At 1912 hours, the Israeli enemy, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, directed a searchlight for four seconds towards a Lebanese fishing boat that was north of buoy No. 2;
- At 2013 hours, an Israeli enemy military patrol boat directed a searchlight for 10 seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters to the north of buoy No. 7.

On 13 March 2009, at 1905 hours, the Israeli enemy, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, directed a searchlight for 10 seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters some 200 metres north of buoy No. 3.

On 14 March 2009, at 2130 hours, the Israeli enemy, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, directed a searchlight for five seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters some 500 metres north of buoy No. 3.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 8 March 2009:

- At 1220 hours, Israeli soldiers close to Kafr Killa verbally abused a Lebanese Armed Forces soldier at a Twelfth Brigade observation post. That soldier did not respond in any way;
- At 2210 hours, the Israeli enemy, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, directed a searchlight for five seconds towards Lebanese Armed Forces and Border Security positions. It did so again, for a further five seconds, at 2314 hours.

On 11 March 2009, at 1745 hours, at the Fatimah Gate, an Israeli enemy patrol in a Hummer jeep directed obscene verbal abuse at guards from the Lebanese Armed Forces Twelfth Mechanized Brigade who were in position at the Gate. The incident was witnessed by a Spanish Battalion patrol that had stopped at the position.

On 12 March 2009, at 1640 hours, when an Israeli enemy patrol comprising two Hummer jeeps was passing the Fatimah Gate, an element got out of the second vehicle and directed obscene verbal abuse at three young Lebanese girls on the Lebanese side of the border. The incident took place in the hearing of a United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon Spanish Battalion patrol that had stopped at the position.

**General Assembly**

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Sixty-third session

Agenda item 146

Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

Financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note of the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/63/756). During its consideration of the note, the Advisory Committee met with the representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.
2. In its resolution 62/267 on the financing of UNMIS, the General Assembly appropriated to the Special Account for UNMIS the total amount of \$858,771,200 gross for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, inclusive of \$820,720,600 gross for the maintenance of the Mission, \$33,169,900 for the support account for peacekeeping operations and \$4,880,700 for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. Resources approved by the General Assembly for UNMIS provided for the authorized strength of 750 military observers, 9,250 military contingent personnel, 715 United Nations police officers, 1,037 international and 2,860 national staff (including 89 temporary positions), 353 United Nations Volunteers and 40 Government-provided personnel.
3. The Secretary-General notes that during the first seven months of the financial period from 1 July 2008 to 31 January 2009, actual costs have consistently exceeded budget forecasts, resulting in projected additional requirements estimated at \$65.1 million in three main areas, namely, personnel-related costs (\$37 million), fuel (\$13.4 million) and aircraft rental (\$14.7 million). The Mission has also incurred additional costs of \$22.6 million for the current budget period in procurement and construction projects deferred from 2007/08, which, in turn, has limited the capacity of the Mission to absorb the additional requirements during the current period.



4. The additional requirements of \$65.1 million are partially offset by a projected unutilized balance of \$4,554,600, including for communications (\$2,149,700), medical services (\$1,166,600), special equipment (\$698,500), general temporary assistance (\$382,700), Government-provided personnel (\$130,800) and information technology (\$26,300). In addition, rental agreements on five aircraft have been terminated, making \$7 million available to partially offset the additional air transportation costs. Taking into account reductions in various expenditures, a net additional requirement of \$56,173,100 in the 2008/09 period is requested.

5. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 16 March 2009, a total of \$4,029,230,000 had been assessed on Member States in respect of UNMIS since its inception. Payments received as at the same date amounted to \$3,840,132,000, leaving an outstanding balance of \$189,098,000. As at 16 March 2009, the cash position of the Mission was \$209,300,000, including the three-month operating reserve of \$155,955,000, resulting in a remaining cash balance of \$53,345,000. The Committee was further informed that, as at 31 December 2008, an estimated \$9,859,000 was owed for troop-cost reimbursements and \$24,437,000 was owed for contingent-owned equipment. The next payments for troop-cost reimbursements and contingent-owned equipment are scheduled for the end of March 2009.

6. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with a breakdown of the additional personnel-related requirements in the amount of \$37 million for military, police and civilian personnel, as follows:

(a) An increase of \$9.0 million in hazard allowance based on a recommendation by the Department of Safety and Security to change the security phase from 2 to 3, effective 12 July 2008;

(b) An increase of \$4.9 million in international personnel costs (\$2.9 million resulting from a lower vacancy rate than budgeted, \$1.5 million from an increase in the salary scale and \$0.5 million from a lower number of staff than budgeted living in United Nations-provided accommodation);

(c) An increase of \$6.6 million in national personnel costs (\$1.7 million from a lower vacancy rate than budgeted, \$6.6 million from an increase in the salary scale based on local salary surveys undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme, offset by \$1.7 million due to United States dollar exchange rate fluctuations against the local currency);

(d) An increase of \$5.2 million in costs for United Nations police (\$1.8 million resulting from a lower vacancy rate and \$3.3 million related to mission subsistence allowance because of fewer police officers than budgeted living in United Nations-provided accommodation);

(e) An increase of \$1.6 million in costs for military observers related to mission subsistence allowance due to fewer observers than budgeted living in United Nations-provided accommodation;

(f) An increase of \$4.0 million in troop rotation costs;

(g) Additional requirements, which were not budgeted, of \$3.7 million for the rotation of contingent-owned helicopters;

(h) Additional requirements of \$1.5 million for contingent-owned major equipment, including special naval equipment;

(i) Additional requirements of \$0.5 million relating to the increase in commercial airline ticket prices for the travel of military observers and United Nations police, and higher daily and recreational allowances for contingent personnel resulting from the lower vacancy rate.

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 16 March 2009, the vacancy rate for international staff was 22 per cent, down from 32 per cent reported to the Committee as at 30 April 2008. **The Advisory Committee notes the Mission's efforts at reducing its vacancy rate for international staff and encourages the Mission to intensify its efforts in this regard.**

8. The Advisory Committee was informed that, owing in part to the increased support to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) during the period 2007/08, UNMIS did not start work on the construction of permanent United Nations-provided accommodation for civilian and military staff in replacement of prefabricated structures. The Committee was also informed that a significant percentage of staff members choose not to live in the prefabricated structures, as they are very basic. The Advisory Committee notes that the full mission subsistence allowance rate continues to be paid for those United Nations personnel who are not living in United Nations-provided accommodation, resulting in some \$5.4 million in additional requirements for payments to international staff, military observers and United Nations police. **The Committee trusts that the construction of permanent United Nations-provided accommodation structures for civilian and military staff will proceed without delay, with a view to reducing the costs related to the payment of full mission subsistence allowance. The Committee stresses that the permanent construction should address the shortcomings of the existing prefabricated accommodations so that they can be fully utilized by staff currently living outside the United Nations premises. The Committee also recommends that the construction of prefabricated accommodations in field missions should be based on a sound assessment of the number of staff members actually willing to occupy them. The Advisory Committee expects an update on the matter in the context of the proposed budget for UNMIS for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011.**

9. The Advisory Committee was provided, upon request, with background information relating to the additional fuel requirements in the amount of \$13.4 million. The Committee was informed that the average unit price for the first six months of the period 2008/09 would be 56 per cent higher than the budgeted rate and that the average annual unit price for the entire period was expected to be 50 per cent higher than budgeted. Specifically, an amount of \$0.83 per litre of diesel and jet fuel had been budgeted for the period 2008/09; however, the average cost for diesel fuel was projected at \$1.27 per litre and the average cost for jet fuel at \$1.14 per litre for the period. The Committee was further informed that the cost of fuel is determined by the Platts oil price index at the time of shipment. The imported fuel is released and billed to UNMIS on the basis of the first-in-first-out accounting

method,¹ leading to a few months' delay before the market price at the time of import is reflected in the invoice for the quantities consumed. Therefore, for the first half of the 2008/09 period, UNMIS paid higher prices owing to the consumption of fuel which had been imported by the contractor during the period of high global prices.

10. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with information regarding the increased requirements of \$14.7 million for the rental of aircraft. The Committee was informed that some aircraft rental contracts had recently expired and that the newly negotiated contracts turned out to be higher both for guaranteed fleet and for flight-hour costs. The average cost of one helicopter flight hour increased from a budgeted amount of \$1,635 to \$1,950, leading to an increase of \$2.6 million in projected requirements for total flight-hour costs.

11. The Advisory Committee notes from the Secretary-General's report and the additional information provided upon enquiry that efforts have been made to offset higher costs in the areas of personnel, fuel and aircraft rental by reviewing overall operational requirements, reprioritizing activities and operations and delaying acquisitions and construction projects. **The Advisory Committee notes that the increased budgetary requirements stem primarily from circumstances beyond the Mission's direct control, particularly with respect to personnel-related costs. The Advisory Committee nevertheless trusts that, for the remainder of the financial period, the Mission will strive to achieve efficiency gains wherever possible. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends appropriation of the full amount requested by the Secretary-General, with partial assessment (see para. 12 (b) and (c) below). Efficiency gains achieved should be reflected in the performance report for the period 2008/09.**

12. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve:

(a) The appropriation of an additional amount of \$56,173,100 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, above the amount of \$820,720,600 already appropriated for the same period under the provisions of Assembly resolution 62/267;

(b) Assessment of the amount of \$42,129,825 for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 April 2009;

(c) Assessment of the amount of \$8,425,965 at a monthly rate of \$4,212,982 should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission beyond 30 April 2009.

¹ The Advisory Committee was informed that this method is a common supply chain management principle, which enables the Mission to track fuel prices as invoiced with reference to the date of the bill of lading for ships coming through Port Sudan or waybills through Kenya; these are supply chain delivery routes as per the contractual agreement. The date of reference of the bill of lading or waybill is correlated to a fuel pricing index (such as the above-mentioned Platts index) to arrive at the variable component of the fuel price to be reimbursed to the contractor. Using the first-in-first-out method insures that UNMIS fuel is billed according to the order of delivery of the shipments.



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Agenda item 64 (b)

Promotion and protection of human rights:
human rights questions, including alternative
approaches for improving the effective enjoyment
of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 18 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The United States wishes to associate itself with the statement on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity contained in the annex to the letter dated 18 December 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, France, Gabon, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly, contained in document A/63/635, which was circulated under agenda item 64 (b), "Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

We would appreciate it if the present letter were circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly under agenda item 64 (b).

(Signed) Susan E. Rice



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Agenda item 118

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives, authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council**Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions****I. Introduction**

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/63/346/Add.6). The report contains the proposed revised budgets and the resulting additional resource requirements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009 for four special political missions, namely, the United Nations Representative for the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq, the International Independent Investigation Commission, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) and the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN). The Secretary-General's report also contains the revised narrative and the logical framework of the budget of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that, taking into account the already appropriated amounts as contained in General Assembly resolutions 62/238, 62/245 and 63/263, as well as actual expenditures incurred in 2008, net additional requirements estimated at \$15,051,600 would arise in connection with the four special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, in accordance with the procedure provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213. The estimated additional requirements of \$2,523,200 under section 35, Staff assessment, would be



offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

II. United Nations Representative to the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq

3. As indicated in the report, the Security Council, in its resolution 1859 (2008), extended the mandate of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq until 31 December 2009. The Secretary-General indicates that resource requirements for the Board for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009 are estimated at \$36,700 and that efforts will be made to meet these requirements from the unencumbered balances for 2008. Accordingly, the Secretary-General proposes no additional requirement for the Board.

III. International Independent Investigation Commission

4. The Security Council, by its resolution 1595 (2005), established an International Independent Investigation Commission to investigate the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri on 14 February 2005. By its resolution 1757 (2007), the Council established a Special Tribunal for Lebanon which was expected to start functioning before the expiration of the mandate of the Commission in December 2008. The Commissioner, in his report to the Security Council dated 2 December 2008 (S/2008/752), requested a two-month extension of the mandate of the Commission, to ensure that there would be no gap between the end of the Commission's mandate and the commencement of the Special Tribunal. Subsequently, the Security Council, in its resolution 1852 (2008), extended the mandate of the Commission until 28 February 2009.

5. In his third report to the Security Council (S/2008/734), the Secretary-General proposed a transition period from 1 January to 28 February 2009 to ensure a seamless transition from the Investigation Commission to the Office of the Prosecutor of the Special Tribunal. During the months of January and February 2009, the Commission has moved its transition team, comprising 12 staff, from Beirut to The Hague. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the functions of the 12 Commission staff deployed to The Hague involved the following:

(a) Legal functions: for ensuring that appropriate agreements exist between the Special Tribunal and external entities to allow for the Tribunal's work to continue without interruption after the end of the mandate of the Commission;

(b) Investigative functions: to prepare for the transfer of files and forensic materials to the Special Tribunal. Staff members have also been sent to The Hague to work on certain investigative projects that required a more secure environment than that available in Beirut, for example in the area of communications analysis;

(c) Support functions: to ensure that information technology equipment is in place so that the current holdings of the Commission can easily be transferred to the Special Tribunal premises in The Hague.

6. According to the Secretary-General, the total resource requirements estimated at \$10,056,000 would cover two months' costs relating to the extension of the Commission's mandate by the Security Council (\$6,377,200) and four months' costs for the liquidation period (\$3,678,800). Taking into account the total appropriation for the mission for the biennium 2008-2009, the Secretary-General estimates that a balance of \$5,999,300 would be available under the appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009. Accordingly, the net additional requirements for the Commission for 2009 would amount to \$4,056,700.

7. The Advisory Committee notes that operational expenditures amounting to \$1.9 million are projected for the liquidation period of the Commission, from 1 March to 30 June 2009. This reflects an increase of \$0.5 million over the related requirements for the transition period. Within operational costs, projected expenditure under facilities and infrastructure will increase from \$0.2 million during the transition period (1 January to 28 February 2009) to \$1.4 million during the liquidation period. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Commission had no office in The Hague as the office was absorbed into the Office of the Prosecutor of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon on 1 March 2009. The Committee was also informed that a provision of \$800,000 was made under facilities and infrastructure for the rental cost of the Monteverde Hotel in Beirut during the four-month liquidation period (\$200,000 per month). The Committee was informed that the Government of Lebanon had defrayed a part of the rental cost for the hotel until 28 February 2009. **The Advisory Committee is not clear as to the basis on which the provision for rental costs for the Monteverde Hotel was included in the budget proposal for the liquidation period. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to clarify this issue for the General Assembly.**

8. The Advisory Committee notes that the Commission will continue to rent vehicles during the liquidation period, including 12 vehicles in March, 3 armoured vehicles for 5 days, 1 truck for 20 days and 1 crane for 15 days. The Committee requested additional information on the rental of the proposed fleet of vehicles during the liquidation period and was informed that a truck and a crane are needed for removing and shipping equipment and supplies, restoring premises, etc., while rental of armoured vehicles would provide for the eventual requirement of high-level visits to Lebanon during the liquidation period. The Committee was informed, however, that no substantive functions would be performed during the liquidation period. **The Advisory Committee recommends that, rather than renting armoured vehicles during the liquidation period, the Commission should avail itself of such vehicles as are already available for the United Nations in the area of operation.**

9. With regard to staffing requirements, the Advisory Committee notes that, for the period from January to April 2009, the approved staffing establishment of 253 for 2008 would be gradually reduced to 34 in June 2009 and that the remaining staff would be separated by 30 June 2009. The Committee sought additional information on the absorption of Commission staff into the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and was informed that there were no special arrangements for transfer of staff to the Special Tribunal. All posts within the Office of the Prosecutor were advertised and the selection process was competitive and involved applications, short listing and competency-based interviews pursuant to the standard procedures/guidelines of the Office of Human Resources Management. The total number of Commission staff

selected for positions within the Special Tribunal for Lebanon was 28 as at 12 March 2009.

10. In view of the small size of the mission, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the liquidation period of the Commission could be expedited. The Committee also expects that negotiations will be undertaken with the Government of Lebanon so that its rental arrangements with the Commission concerning the Monteverde Hotel will continue during the liquidation period of the mission. Efforts should also be made to reduce the estimated requirements for operational costs related to the liquidation period. The resulting savings should be reflected in the second performance report for the biennium 2008-2009.

11. In view of its observation in paragraph 8 above regarding rental of armoured vehicles, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$22,500 in the proposed net additional requirements of \$4,056,700 for the mission.

IV. United Nations Political Office for Somalia

12. In its resolution 1814 (2008), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to establish the necessary security arrangements for the relocation of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia from Nairobi to Mogadishu. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that, following a comprehensive assessment of the security situation in the country performed at the end of 2008, the relocation of UNPOS and the United Nations country team to Somalia could not proceed, as none of the mitigating factors to reduce security threats are at an acceptable level. Under current conditions, the relocation of UNPOS can only proceed with the prior or parallel deployment of an appropriate security dynamic. The originally planned relocation date of July 2009 will therefore need to be delayed and the proposed revised budget for UNPOS assumes that the mission will remain in Nairobi until the end of the year.

13. The Advisory Committee points out that the situation in the area of operation of UNPOS has further evolved since the submission of the Secretary-General's report (A/63/346/Add.6). For example, the Committee was informed that missions to Mogadishu, which had been suspended in June 2008, have been resumed — a first UNPOS mission visited Mogadishu on 9 March 2009. The Committee was also informed that, at the end of February 2009, UNPOS had two National Officers based inside Somalia (at Hargeysa and Garoowe).

14. According to the Secretary-General, the revised resource requirements for UNPOS for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009 are estimated at \$12,795,500. The Secretary-General indicates that the reduction of \$2,464,600 in 2009 requirements, as compared to the appropriation for 2008 of \$15,260,100, is due to the inability to relocate to Somalia, resulting in lower requirements for transportation, communications and information technology equipment and air transportation. Taking into account the unspent balance of funds as at 31 December 2008 (\$5,095,900) and the appropriation for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2009 already approved by the General Assembly (\$1,545,500), the net additional requirements for UNPOS for 2009 are estimated by the Secretary-General at \$6,154,100.

15. The Advisory Committee sought additional information on support provided to UNPOS by the United Nations Office at Nairobi and was informed that UNPOS is using common services with the United Nations Office at Nairobi or other entities to the maximum extent possible. UNPOS has arrangements in place with the United Nations Office at Nairobi that cover the following areas: (a) information technology and communication support; (b) office security; (c) security support for UNPOS staff inside Kenya; (d) transport of local staff; (e) medical clinic; (f) webmaster support and maintenance of the UNPOS website; (g) payroll of local staff; (h) travel services; (i) host country and protocol support for international staff; and (j) pouch and mail services. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the utilization by UNPOS of common support services available at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and encourages further efforts in this regard.**

16. The Secretary-General proposes to establish a P-4 post of Chief Security Officer and three Field Service posts for Personal Protection Officers to strengthen the existing team of two Personal Protection Officers. The Advisory Committee requested and was provided with additional information in connection with the proposed additional security staff for 2009. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of a temporary P-4 post of Chief Security Officer and three temporary Field Service posts for Personal Protection Officers. The Committee trusts that security arrangements at UNPOS will be further evaluated and justified in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, which should draw on the findings and conclusions of the forthcoming comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on a safety and security policy framework at the United Nations.**

17. The Advisory Committee is of the view that criteria and guidelines for providing close protection officers in United Nations field missions should be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the forthcoming comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on a safety and security policy framework at the United Nations.

18. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposal for UNPOS has not been updated to reflect the most recent political developments, including measures related to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1863 (2009). The Committee was informed that the Secretary-General intends to submit revised budget proposals for UNPOS to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-third session. **Rather than consider the present proposal and a prospective update separately, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take no action on the present proposal, with the exception of the proposals for additional security staff (see para. 16 above), pending submission at the second part of its resumed sixty-third session by the Secretary-General of an updated proposal.**

V. United Nations Mission in Nepal

19. As a result of the completion of a number of previously mandated functions, such as electoral assistance and electoral security, the United Nations Mission in Nepal has been downsized. The current mandate of the Mission runs until 23 July 2009, pursuant to resolution 1864 (2009) by which the Security Council extended the mandate of the Mission for six months from 23 January 2009. The

Advisory Committee was informed that the downsized Mission, headed by a Representative of the Secretary-General at the D-2 level, would continue to monitor the management of arms and armed personnel of the Nepal Army and the Maoist army and would assist the parties, through a Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee, in implementing the agreement concerning the management of arms and armed personnel of both the Nepal Army and the Maoist army.

20. The special political mission budget, approved for 2009 by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/263, included a provision of \$6,895,500 for UNMIN to cover requirements for a one-month operation, to be followed by its liquidation at the end of January 2009.

21. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that, since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1864 (2009), the planning assumptions for UNMIN for 2009 have been amended to reflect the maintenance of operations of the Mission for the period from 1 January to 31 July 2009 followed by a liquidation phase of four months, from 1 August to 30 November 2009. The Secretary-General indicates that, until 23 July 2009, UNMIN will be operating at an overall reduced staffing level compared to 2008 and proposes to increase the number of arms monitors starting from February 2009 from 72 to 73, on the basis of the actual experience in 2008, to ensure the best possible mandate delivery of the Mission regarding monitoring the management of arms and armies. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal.**

22. According to the Secretary-General, the total revised requirements for 2009 are estimated at \$16,778,700. Based on the actual expenditure for 2008 and the unspent balance of funds as at 31 December 2008 (\$11,937,900), the net additional requirements for UNMIN for 2009 would amount to \$4,840,800.

23. The proposed staffing requirements reflect the assumption that all substantive personnel will be repatriated after July 2009 and that the remaining administrative staff will be gradually phased out during the liquidation period.

24. While the Advisory Committee appreciates the role of the Mission in providing technical support to the Election Commission in the planning, preparation and conduct of the election of a Constituent Assembly in Nepal, it is nevertheless concerned at the lack of clear benchmarks and timelines for assessing the Mission's achievements in the current budget period.

25. Upon request, the Committee was provided with additional information on the status of the United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal, which shows that the total available funding amounted to some \$22.9 million, of which some \$12.1 million had been spent as at 28 February 2009 for, inter alia, United Nations agencies supporting activities related to:

(a) Cantonments/reintegration: improving living conditions in the cantonment sites hosting the Maoist army; registration/verification and reintegration of combatants, late recruits and minors; disposal of mines and other unexploded devices;

(b) Elections/governance: technical advice and logistic support on elections/constitutional issues; assistance to restore Government authority at the local level;

(c) Security: restoration of law and order, especially in the countryside;

(d) Rights and reconciliation: assistance to initiatives related to transitional justice, national monitoring mechanisms of the peace process and local reconciliation.

VI. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)

26. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that, in section XI, paragraph 4, of its resolution 63/263, the General Assembly requested him to revise the narrative and the logical framework of the budget of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), taking into account recent developments and the concerns raised by Member States, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly before the first part of its resumed sixty-third session.

27. The Secretary-General indicates that a review of the narrative and the logical framework for the Special Envoy for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) has been conducted, and the narrative and the logical framework have been revised as shown in his report. There are no resource implications resulting from the revision of the narrative and the logical framework for the Special Envoy.

28. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the revised narrative and logical framework for the budget of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009.

VII. Recommendation

29. The Secretary-General's proposals for action to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 83 of his report (A/63/346/Add.6). The Advisory Committee recommends that:

(a) With regard to the revised budgets for the International Advisory and Monitoring Board, the International Independent Investigation Commission and the United Nations Mission in Nepal for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009 contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/63/346/Add.6), the General Assembly approve the resources requested by the Secretary-General, subject to the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee as set out above. The Committee requests that the adjusted amount be provided directly to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals;

(b) The General Assembly defer action on the proposed budget for the United Nations Political Office for Somalia for 2009, with the exception of the proposal for the establishment of four posts for temporary additional security staff recommended by the Advisory Committee (see para. 16 above), pending submission at the second part of its resumed sixty-third session by the Secretary-General of an updated proposal;

(c) Taking into account the recommendations contained in paragraph 29 (a) and (b) above, the General Assembly appropriate the adjusted resources under section 3, Political affairs, and the proposed provision under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

(d) The General Assembly take note of the balance of \$24,615,300 under the appropriation for these missions for the biennium 2008-2009 based on actual expenditures incurred in 2008;

(e) The General Assembly approve the revised narrative and logical framework for the budget of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) for the period 1 January to 31 December 2009.

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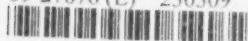
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Sixty-third session

Agenda item 157

**Financing of activities arising from
Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)****Financing of support for the African Union Mission in
Somalia for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009****Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions**

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/63/758). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.
2. By its resolution 1863 (2009), the Security Council expressed its intent to establish a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia as a follow-on force to AMISOM, subject to a further decision of the Council by 1 June 2009. The Council requested the Secretary-General, in order for the AMISOM forces to be incorporated into a United Nations peacekeeping operation, to provide a United Nations logistical support package to AMISOM, including equipment and services, but not including transfer of funds to AMISOM, until 1 June 2009 or until a decision is taken by the Council, whichever is earlier.
3. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 5 of his report that, in the interim, and pending the further decision of the Security Council, resources are needed immediately to support and strengthen AMISOM. Accordingly, the Secretary-General is requesting, pursuant to section IV, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A, commitment authority, with assessment, for the period from 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2009 in the amount of \$80,906,900. This total is inclusive of the amount of \$43,856,300 gross of commitment authority granted on 10 March 2009, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, for the provision of logistics support to AMISOM; the balance of \$3,994,700 gross of commitment authority granted on 26 June and 20 October 2008 for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009; and the expenditures of \$2,149,000 gross of



commitment authority granted on 27 April and 19 December 2007 for the period from 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2008.

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its resolution 1744 (2007), the Security Council noted that AMISOM was intended to contribute to an initial stabilization phase in Somalia and would evolve into a United Nations operation, and that, subsequently, in its resolution 1772 (2007), the Council requested the continued development of contingency planning for the possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation replacing AMISOM. The Committee further notes that the Council has expressly requested the Secretary-General to provide a United Nations logistical support package to AMISOM in order for the AMISOM forces to be incorporated into a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

5. The Security Council, in paragraph 8 of its resolution 1863 (2009), also requested the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund to provide financial support to AMISOM until a United Nations peacekeeping operation was deployed. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the trust fund had been established and that one Government was in the process of contributing resources to it. **Updated information on the financial status of the trust fund should be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the Secretary-General's report.**

6. In paragraph 7 of his report, the Secretary-General asserts that the provision of support to AMISOM will break new ground for the United Nations in the implementation of an appropriate support model. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Department of Field Support would lead the logistical support effort, with assistance as necessary from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and that the new support office described in the Secretary-General's report would be a stand-alone entity, separate from the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) and reporting directly to the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support at United Nations Headquarters. UNPOS would continue to be headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and supported primarily by the Department of Political Affairs.

7. With regard to the planning assumptions for the proposed support office, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, to date, owing to the prevailing security situation in Somalia, the Department of Field Support had been unable to visit Mogadishu in order to assess actual needs on the ground and that, accordingly, the planning assumptions for the support package were still evolving. The Committee notes that the Security Council, in its resolution 1863 (2009), requested the Secretary-General to submit, by 15 April 2009, a report regarding a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia, to include developments in the situation in Somalia, progress towards the full deployment and strengthening of AMISOM with a view to transition to a United Nations peacekeeping operation, progress in the political process and security conditions on the ground, in order to inform the Council of his assessment in advance of a further decision to establish a United Nations peacekeeping operation as a follow-on to AMISOM and with a view to speedy deployment. **The Advisory Committee therefore trusts that, following the submission of the aforementioned report of the Secretary-General, and once an on-site visit has been carried out, the planning assumptions for the support office will be further refined and reported to the General Assembly in the context of a future submission.**

8. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the proposed new support office would be located mainly in Nairobi. In paragraph 35 of the report, he also indicates that some of the resources requested under facilities and infrastructure would be used to support the alteration and construction of office spaces in the premises to be rented in Nairobi for the new headquarters. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed support office would be located within the Gigiri compound at the United Nations Office at Nairobi in space leased from the United Nations Office at Nairobi under a cost-sharing arrangement. **The Advisory Committee encourages the Secretary-General to take full advantage of relevant facilities and services available at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.**

9. While the headquarters of the proposed support office would be located in Nairobi, the Secretary-General also envisages establishing a secondary logistical support office in Entebbe, capitalizing on United Nations facilities and structures already in place there. The Advisory Committee was informed, however, that discussions were currently under way regarding the establishment of a secondary logistics hub elsewhere in the region, on account primarily of the elevated cost of air freight from Entebbe to Mogadishu. Upon enquiry, the Committee was further informed that, although various locations were being considered, Mombasa had emerged as a viable option in view of its proximity to Somalia and the fact that it offered the possibility of establishing a coastal supply line to and from Mogadishu, Kismaayo and Hobyo. In this connection, the Committee recalls that, during its deliberations on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, it was informed that, in December 2008, UNMIS, in consultation with United Nations Headquarters, had initiated a review of the feasibility of setting up a southern resupply chain from Mombasa through Entebbe, and that the Mission was currently finalizing a feasibility study on that option. **The Advisory Committee encourages the Secretary-General to explore opportunities for full coordination in this area.**

10. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General's report does not contain any information on the envisaged relationship between the proposed support office and AMISOM. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that it was intended that the support office for AMISOM would establish and maintain a close relationship with both the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union for Somalia and the AMISOM Force Commander. The fact that the Special Representative and administrative staff for AMISOM were currently based in Nairobi, and that the Force Commander also used Nairobi as the primary point of liaison outside Somalia with key stakeholders, were important considerations in the proposal to establish Nairobi as the appropriate headquarters for the support office. The Committee was also informed that, in order to facilitate cooperation between AMISOM and the United Nations, it was envisaged that the support office would have a small staffing complement to support military liaison requirements, as well as a small liaison capacity with the African Union directly in Addis Ababa. **The Advisory Committee stresses the importance of close cooperation between the proposed support office and AMISOM and trusts that more detailed information on the relevant arrangements will be provided in the context of a future submission.**

11. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 8 of his report that the resourcing proposal is built around a strategy of continuing the existing supply of

"life-support" requirements to AMISOM as a temporary measure while a procurement process to provide such support in accordance with United Nations standards, rules and regulations is undertaken. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that AMISOM was currently being supported by a Member State, by way of that Member State's own multifunctional logistics contract with a commercial vendor. The commercial supply arrangements cover three broad areas: the transport of troops, their equipment and ongoing life-support supplies to Mogadishu, as well as medical evacuation services to Nairobi; the provision of basic life-support supplies such as rations, fuel and water; and initial outfitting of the contingents with equipment for their deployment.

12. The Advisory Committee was also informed that discussions were under way with the Member State in question with a view to identifying options for it to continue to provide support to AMISOM, the costs being reimbursed by the United Nations under a letter-of-assist arrangement until the United Nations could complete its own procurement process. If the United Nations and the Member State agree to that arrangement, it is understood that the Member State would continue to use the existing multifunctional contractor. The United Nations would have no direct contractual relationship with the commercial vendor supporting AMISOM, but would work with the Member State to ensure that appropriate levels of support were continued to AMISOM. Support would be provided only at the direction of the United Nations. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that \$11,839,300 of the total amount of \$80,906,900 requested by the Secretary-General would be used to continue life support to AMISOM under the existing arrangements until 30 June 2009.

13. With regard to procurement, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the United Nations had completed an "expressions of interest" process to establish its own commercial supply arrangements for logistics support to AMISOM. The Committee was further informed that the United Nations was not planning to enter into a single multifunctional contract. **The Advisory Committee reiterates the importance of maintaining the integrity of the procurement process and expects that relevant United Nations regulations and rules will be fully observed.**

14. In paragraph 17 of his report, the Secretary-General states that logistics support to AMISOM will present a number of challenges. He further states that, with security conditions limiting the United Nations presence on the ground in Somalia, the modalities of accountability for United Nations supplies, services and equipment provided to AMISOM will be established, as stipulated in paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1863 (2009), by a memorandum of understanding to be agreed upon between the United Nations and the African Union. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the memorandum was currently being drafted. The Committee was further informed that, in order to ensure adequate oversight of United Nations property, the Secretary-General intended to develop "remote" management and accountability mechanisms. **The Advisory Committee stresses the need for the earliest possible conclusion of the memorandum of understanding in order to set out the accountability mechanisms and internal control procedures required to ensure the transparent and effective use of all equipment, supplies and services provided by the United Nations. The Committee also expects that a detailed description of the aforementioned**

"remote" management and accountability mechanisms will be provided in a future submission.

15. The Secretary-General is requesting a total of \$17,576,100 under facilities and infrastructure. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that \$10 million of that amount would be used for the first phase of construction of hardened accommodation in Mogadishu to house a force headquarters and a level II medical facility, and that financial provision for the second phase of construction would be made in a budget submission for 2009/10. **A detailed breakdown of projected expenditure under this item should be provided in a future submission and expenses incurred thus far should be adequately accounted for.**

16. As for human resources, the Secretary-General is requesting \$6,937,200 under civilian personnel, reflecting, inter alia, requirements relating to the envisaged establishment of 149 international staff for the support office for AMISOM in Nairobi, with a small presence in Addis Ababa and Entebbe, as well as the envisaged establishment of 55 national staff. In section II.B of his report, the Secretary-General outlines the envisaged staffing establishment. In paragraph 9 of the report, he states that the total staffing of 204 personnel will be able to support AMISOM as it deploys in Mogadishu to its authorized strength of 8,000 troops and 270 civilian police. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 30 and 31 of the report that the estimates for international and national staff reflect the application of a 50 per cent delayed recruitment factor.

17. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in accordance with established practice, national staff were nationals of the country or countries in which a given operation was located. In this case, therefore, the national staff recruited by the proposed support office would be either Kenyans (at the headquarters in Nairobi) or Ugandans (at the secondary logistics hub in Entebbe). The Committee was also informed that, if and when all or part of the support structure moved to Somalia, appropriate arrangements would have to be made to ensure that Somali citizens were hired as national staff. **The Advisory Committee emphasizes the importance of maximizing the use of national staff. In this connection, the Committee notes that the envisaged staffing establishment provides for a substantial number of international Field Service staff. The Committee is of the view that it should be possible to find some of the necessary technical skills and expertise locally.**

18. The Secretary-General states in paragraph 9 of his report that the proposed support office would be headed by a Director at the D-2 level, assisted by a Deputy Director, a Chief of Administrative Services and a Chief of Integrated Support Services, all at the D-1 level. The Secretary-General indicates that the levels proposed reflect the scope of the challenges facing the support office. Further, in paragraph 10 of his report, the Secretary-General points out that human resource requirements to provide logistics support to AMISOM have been shown at an aggregate level comprising only support personnel and will be further justified in any 2009/10 budget, and that the staffing requirements shown in the report are limited to support for AMISOM forces under their existing mandate.

19. **The Advisory Committee cautions against the development of a top-heavy staffing structure and stresses that all the human resources requested by the Secretary-General will have to be fully justified, on the basis of need, in a**

future submission. In that context, a full explanation of the complexity of the operation and the logistical challenges envisaged should also be provided.

20. The Secretary-General indicates, in paragraph 19 of his report, that a United Nations planning team of 23 temporary positions has already been deployed to Addis Ababa to provide added capacity to the African Union in relation to AMISOM. A coordination and planning team of 16 temporary positions has also been established in New York to plan for a possible United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia. The Advisory Committee points out that, to date, planning and coordination relating to a possible United Nations peacekeeping presence in Somalia have been provided and financed under separate arrangements. With the establishment of the new support office, the Committee expects that future submissions will provide an integrated presentation of all the resources required for planning activities in order to avoid duplication of functions.

21. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 44 of the Secretary-General's report. Bearing in mind its observations and recommendations set out in the preceding paragraphs, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the period from 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2009 in the amount of \$80,906,900, inclusive of the amount of \$50,000,000 already authorized with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, which comprises the amount of \$2,149,000 for the period from 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2008 and the amount of \$47,851,000 for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. The Committee also recommends that the Assembly approve assessment of the amount of \$2,149,000 for the period from 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2008, as well as the amount of \$78,757,900 for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. The Advisory Committee stresses, however, that its recommendation on commitment authority in no way prejudices the position that the Committee may take on the structure, number and level of posts or on other resources intended for the provision of support for AMISOM or a future United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia.